



A lesson in
tolerance

PAGE 3



Apply to ASPIRE
and succeed

PAGE 3



Celebrating
womanhood

PAGE 9

THE COLLEGIAN

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

Volume 62

Issue 21

www.utbcollegian.com

Monday

March 1, 2010

Mr. Amigo charms campus crowd



FRANCISCO ESPINOSA/COLLEGIAN

Brownsville District 4 City Commissioner Edward Camarillo (left) and Matamoros Mayor Erick Silva Santos release doves as a symbol of peace between Matamoros and Brownsville on Thursday during the "Hands Across the Bridge" ceremony on the Gateway International Bridge. The ceremony is part of Brownsville's Charro Days festivities and Matamoros' Fiestas Mexicanas.

Third in a series: UTB and TSC pact revisited

Students paying 'more for more'

By Christine Cavazos

Staff Writer

University officials are disputing claims that Texas Southmost College is not an affordable community college compared to other ones in the state.

In a presentation Tuesday before the Community Advisory Committee, Michael Putegnat, director of the university's Institute for Public Service, said 85 percent of students enrolled in TSC have some kind of financial aid.

The issue came about from the second committee meeting, held Feb. 16, where David Merrill, a branch manager at Wells Fargo Advisors and a member of the committee, said TSC is an expensive community college compared with others in the state.

A total of 10,145 students are enrolled at UTB/TSC. A student taking 15 semester credit hours pays an estimated \$2,885 per semester in tuition and fees, according to Putegnat's presentation.

About 15 percent of students do not receive any type of financial aid.

• See 'Partnership,' Page 8

By Cleiri Quezada

Staff Writer

"Hopefully, in the near future, we can say that there are no frontiers, and no walls, and only one heart," Mexican singer, actor and *charro* Vicente Fernandez Jr. told hundreds of people gathered on campus Thursday to welcome him as Mr. Amigo 2009.

Fernandez, who spoke in Spanish, said the recognition by Brownsville's Mr. Amigo Association was one of the most important events of his life.

"To me, this weekend has been, and will be very important for the rest of my life," he said from the stage on the Student Union lawn. "It is an honor and a privilege to have seen, just a few moments ago, that you can, in fact, see and you can be what many politicians would like to see: a river without frontiers; to see two nations become one community; to see the love that they have since childhood; and the people's little piece of heart, who had to migrate to another country in search for a

future, as I have just seen."

Fernandez was honored to see how the people in the community proudly wore traditional Mexican attire.

UTB/TSC President Dr. Juliet V. García welcomed Mr. Amigo to the university, reminding the audience and Fernandez that 30 years ago, his father, legendary *ranchero* singer Vicente Fernandez, was also honored as Mr. Amigo.

"Family is important to you, Mr. Fernandez," García said. "Family is important to us here at this university and so we are extraordinarily delighted to have this quality celebrated today as well."

On behalf of the university, García presented Fernandez with a plaque.

"First, a small plaque that is engraved with his name, for outstanding achievement in establishing friendly relations and communications between Mexico and the United States, because on this campus we do not believe in building fences, we believe in building bridges," she said.

• See 'Amigo,' Page 10



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN

Vicente Fernandez Jr., Mr. Amigo 2009, shows off the plaque he received from UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García on Thursday during the ceremony held in his honor on the Student Union lawn.

Third in a series: 2010 census--making it count

Uniting communities in one effort

By David Boon

Staff Writer

In order to aim for a complete count, the U.S. Census Bureau has drawn on the strength of the very communities to be counted.

In the 2000 census, Cameron County was declared to hold 335,227 residents--a number many local officials said was up to 10 percent lower than the actual population. Much of this undercount was due to low participation in marginalized areas such as the *colonias*.

"We do a lot of things specifically in the *colonias* to try to address that," said Efen Salinas,

• See 'Census,' Page 9

2010 March Primary
Tuesday
For polling site locations, visit:
<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/election/locations.htm>

Financial Aid Deadlines for 2010-2011



**GO FOR THE GREEN
AND GET THE GOLD**

RED LIGHT

Don't get caught in this situation! You may have to wait until spring 2011 to enroll if you cannot make payment arrangements before the deadline. Oh no!!!

If you apply after June 1, 2010, you may not receive an award in time for fall 2010 payment deadline. You should prepare to pay your tuition and fee charges with personal funds or select a payment plan. Emergency loan funds are very limited. Make arrangements with the Business Office early.

YELLOW LIGHT

Caution-hurry, hurry, hurry!

If you apply between March 2, 2010, and June 1, 2010, your award may be ready by the payment deadline (if eligible).

If you receive an e-mail notice that you are selected for verification, please provide requested documents within two weeks after receiving notice, but no later than June 1, 2010. Your awards may be ready by the payment deadline.

GREEN LIGHT

You're ready to go! Check your e-mail often.

Complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) between January 1, 2010, and March 1, 2010, to ensure that your awards will be ready by the payment deadline (if eligible). If you receive an e-mail notice that you are selected for verification, please provide requested documents within two weeks after receiving notice.

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

For more information, please contact
Steven Aguilar at 882-7966 or Magda Goga at 882-7585.



Decisions, decisions ...



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Election worker Marisol Carrillo (right) shows junior nursing major Roberto Frausto on Thursday a sample ballot for the March primary. Frausto was among the early voters who cast ballots at the UTB/TSC polling place in Cardenas Hall South. The primary is Tuesday.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES



**"BE BOLDER
SPEAK LOUDER
GIVE EVERYTHING
THIS IS THE MOMENT!"**

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7 p.m. • Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at noon and 7 p.m.
Science & Technology Building Lecture Hall

Admission: \$3 students/\$5 non-students

All proceeds benefit Friendship of Women, a sexual assault crisis shelter in our community.

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

Sponsored by the Dean of Students Office.
For more information, please call (956) 882-5141.



Rising above the race issue

By **Jacqueline Vasquez**
Staff Writer

When junior communication major Rainbow Coan was 6 years old, her family moved from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Brownsville. It was the first time Coan had ever lived in the Rio Grande Valley. It was also the first time she had ever heard anyone call her father the “n” word.

Coan’s mother is Hispanic and her father is black. Her parents were both Marines, which is how they met, and when they retired her mother wanted to be near her family in Brownsville. It did not take long before racist remarks started flying.

“I remember I was standing in the lunch line and some little boy told me, ‘Well, you know, my dad said I don’t have to play with you because your dad’s a n-----,’” Coan said.

She said she went home that day upset and let her father know about the incident. She told him she did not know people still thought about or used “words like that,” especially coming from a non-white person. Her parents explained that some people sometimes have a problem with other people because they are different.

The racist comments continued and Coan was forced to learn to cope with it. She said she would usually respond by saying she was going to tell her father or teacher.

“What can you say back to that?” she said. “I don’t think there’s another thing you can say to them that’s just as hurtful as what they said to you.”

Children who were caught being racist were spoken to by her teachers, who would tell them that their word usage was wrong and unacceptable. Coan believes that children who speak in that manner most likely heard it at home.



Rainbow Coan

UTB/TSC clinical counselor Ricardo Ayala III said family is what forms the foundation of a child’s self-esteem and determines what type of attitude a child will have toward someone else.

“Parents are the earliest and most powerful source of racial attitudes,” Ayala said via e-mail. “Children are not born naturally hating other groups of people.”

Coan’s older sister was taunted as well. She remembers an incident that occurred with one of the neighborhood children when she was playing outside.

“He kept on telling her, ‘you have n----- hair, you have n----- hair’ and she came home really upset,” she said.

Her parents reiterated that people do not always like what is different. She said it was surprising to her that so much discrimination was coming from Hispanic people being that they are minorities as well.

“On TV it was always white people [against] the civil rights movements, so it was kind of shocking,” Coan said.

It is an emotional subject for her sister who does not like talking about it, but Coan decided to take a different approach.

“I just embraced being different and just went along with it and got friends who didn’t care that I was different,” she said. “I just kind of took it on the chin and dealt with it.”

Coan, now 22, said that the comments continue even to this day.

Recently, in a foyer on campus, she was sitting with some students and one of them began using bigoted language, including the “n” word, while talking about a trip to Houston. Coan responded by letting her know that she was not comfortable with people using words like that around her.

She chooses to believe that most people use words like that because of ignorance or because they believe other people won’t care if they use those words.

“I’d hate to think people would be hurtful on purpose,” she said.

Ayala encourages people to educate themselves and others about multicultural diversity.

“Develop tolerance for other people’s opinions, as long as they do not impinge upon your own rights as a person,” he said.

Coan and her family also receive pressure from both sides of their extended family to be either black or Hispanic.

Her mother has been accused by some family members of rejecting the Mexican culture because Coan and her sister do not speak fluent Spanish or because they do not like certain Mexican cuisines.

“And the same thing with my dad’s side of the family,” she said. “If we don’t like rap music or we don’t like a certain type of food or if we don’t identify completely with being black,

then you’re rejecting your culture. You have to choose a side.”

Coan said she does not wish to choose a side or be a stereotype and when people tell her to choose a side or ask her about her race, she tells them she is both.

“I just want to be myself,” she said. “My idea of what a black person is, is what my dad raised me to think it was and my idea of a Hispanic person is the idea my mom raised me to be and it’s not a stereotype.”

Coan said she does not feel pressure to be one or the other from her parents and acknowledges that some people still disapprove of mixed-race marriages.

“I don’t think people are as accepting as they say they are,” she said. “It’s all really nice when you see it on TV, but when it’s really happening to your own family, it’s not as accepted.”

When it comes to having different cultures in a family or even outside of the family, Coan said, one should not close themselves off and make assumptions before giving the other person a chance.

Coan said it hurts more when she sees it happening to children, such as her cousins, ages 6, 9 and 12, who go to school in Brownsville.

One of them told her that some of the children make fun of his dark skin and the way he dresses and acts.

“He feels like he doesn’t have friends because of that,” she said.

Coan used to teach a Sunday school class where the mother of a 7-year-old girl who is biracial came in and begged Coan to speak to her little girl because the girl was so heartbroken over the many remarks made about her.

“She said she hated being black, that why did

• See ‘People,’ Page 12

ASPIRE to achieve academic success

By **Julianna Sosa**
Collegian Editor

Sometimes, as a student, you need that extra push to get you through college. A program on the UTB/TSC campus does just that and is accepting student applications.

Respiratory therapist major Juanita Aviles first learned about A Support Program in Reaching Excellence, or ASPIRE, through a friend and applied to the program in 2008. Aviles said ASPIRE gave her the “one-on-one” attention that she needed and now expects to graduate this spring.

“Here it’s a little bit different because they know you,” Aviles told *The Collegian* in an interview Wednesday.

She has taken advantage of the program’s services, which include tutorials, workshops, academic advisement, registration assistance,

peer mentoring and personal counseling. Aviles said she still maintains a close working relationship with her tutors and recommends other students take advantage of the program.

“[The counseling] helps because you have a kind ear to listen to what is going on in your life,” Aviles said with a smile.

To qualify for ASPIRE, you must be in “academic need,” a first-generation college student, have a documented disability or receive federal financial assistance. Those who qualify can pick up an application in Cardenas Hall North 112. Documents needed to complete the application include an unofficial transcript, a copy of your most recent income tax return or Student Aid Report, a signed degree plan and a current class schedule.

“We would like to continue to serve those students who are fresh out of high school or those individuals who might have already

graduated, maybe 15 years ago, and are ready to come back to start their education,” said Jennifer Verduzco, student development specialist II.

Although the program is geared toward students who meet certain criteria, Verduzco said the ASPIRE lab is available to all students. The lab is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located in Cardenas Hall North 118.


The federally funded program began in 1993 and assists 275 students every academic year. Verduzco said she has been working for the program for eight months, but is trying to “change things up a bit.”

“We are trying to improvise as much as we can ... get our students to be a little bit more active and, of course, for the recruiting efforts as well,” she said.





LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN

Senior Learning Instructional Specialist Hermann Graef assists Juanita Aviles, a senior respiratory therapy major, with an essay Wednesday in the ASPIRE lab, located in Cardenas Hall North 118.



Vote RENE CORONADO
TSC Board of Trustees – Place 3





- ✓ 20 Years of Military Service to the Nation
- ✓ Disabled Combat Veteran (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
- ✓ Lifetime Member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- ✓ Graduate from Texas A&M Corpus Christi
 - Bachelor's in Gov't (Minor in Bus. Admin.)
- ✓ Graduate from Webster University – St. Louis, MO
 - Master's in Human Resources Management
- ✓ Graduate Student at UTB/TSC
 - Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies (Sociology, Public Policy, and Gov't)
- ✓ Married 19 years with 2 Children (First & Only Marriage)
- ✓ Proud Father of a UTB/TSC Student
- ✓ Former HR Manager with the City of San Benito
- ✓ Former Human Resources Director at UTB/TSC


“My plan for UTB/TSC includes reducing property taxes within the District, cutting tuition for ALL students, and fixing the Partnership Agreement to better represent the interest of our local taxpayers!
On Saturday, May 8, Please Vote For Me as Your Trustee on the TSC Board”

Paid Pol. Adv. By Rene Coronado For TSC Board of Trustees; Raul Coronado Jr. Treasurer; 956-371-4775; E-mail: Mr.ReneCoronado@yahoo.com; GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Retirement Income Specialist

Bob Richardson CLU, ChFC
REGISTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

(956) 542 - 1775



Investment Advisor Representative with and Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc. (TFA) member FINRA, SIPC and a Registered Investment Advisor. Non-securities products and services are not offered through TFA.

LD3916-08/09



Who is the most influential woman in your life?

"That would have to be my mother because I've had a recent loss in my family and she came down from Houston, because my parents were separated, and so she came down and bought a new house and took me and my brother in."
Jonathan Begum
Freshman



"I would have to say my grandmother because she moved here from Mexico when she was a teenager without knowing any English and she came to school here and learned English within a couple of years and graduated as valedictorian. [She] raised six kids; [she is a] very, very smart woman."
Marcela Llamas
Freshman



"[Secretary of State] Hillary Clinton because she stands for what I believe in."
Robert Ramos
Freshman business major



"La mujer más importante en mi vida es mi mamá porque ha influenciado mucho en mí y porque ella ha salido adelante y es un ejemplo a seguir. Me gustaría ser como ella porque es una mujer fuerte y ha sacado adelante a sus tres hijos."
Nataly Hernandez
Sophomore sociology major



--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada
--Photos by Elizabeth A. Perez



Toss the lettermans

By Julianna Sosa
Collegian Editor



During this recent colder-than-usual weather I've been seeing lots of jackets, but primarily, I've seen high school

letterman jackets. There comes a time when we Scorpions shed our high school colors and unite under the great orange and white. All incoming freshmen are inducted into this institution during Scorpionation, where school spirit is promoted and student life encouraged.

So it always puzzles me when I see students sporting a blue-and-white letterman with their last

name plastered across the back or a maroon-and-gold letterman splattered with arm patches of extracurricular achievements in high school. To all those who cannot seem to break away from their high school days, heed my advice: Invest in a new jacket.

This advice might be offensive to some, but the truth is you are not in high school anymore. I may not know the exact reasons

why some still choose to parade around in their letterman but the fashion makes a statement.

I encourage you to make a new statement that promotes Scorpion spirit. I admit I own a letterman jacket, and I was proud to earn it, but I stuffed it in the back of my closet the day I graduated from high school, along with cafeteria food and tardy bells.

Letter to the editor

End the petition

I will ask Mr. [Joshuah] Law to end his uninformed petition. His waste of time and resources could be put to better uses. The only reason that the original four students were not voted in was due to the former and current advisers' decision not to place

them on a ballot because they were unopposed.

Mr. Law, you are trying to penalize these students for actions beyond their control. Why are you doing this? If you wish to change how things are done, change SGA Constitution to make all candidates appear on the ballot, even if they are

unopposed. This action would be a more productive use of your time.

I also read that you wish to remove the seven senators that were just appointed. Their appointment is legal and valid under the current SGA Constitution. Again, I will ask why? If you don't like how

this is done, change the SGA Constitution. I guess the better question to ask is why are you trying to subvert the SGA Constitution? This is a question only you can answer.

David Smith
Junior history education major

Letters to the editor policy

Letters must include the name, major, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of

The Collegian or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Letters for *The Collegian* can be sent to collegian@utb.edu.

Corrections

In the Feb. 22 issue of *The Collegian*:

--an article headlined "Get some help in filling out your FAFSA" misquoted Director of Financial Aid Mari Chapa. The quote should have read, "But if there's other funds, like [the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant], then we award up to the ceiling."

--an article headlined "Three VP positions filled in SGA" stated that the amount allocated for Resolution 23 was \$1,500. In fact, the amount was \$1,400. Also, it was reported that former Freshman Senator Joshuah Law continues with the petition to vacate all senate positions held by members elected by the student body. In fact, Law continues with the petition to vacate all senate positions held by members *not elected* by the student body.

Cameron County Commissioner Precinct 2 candidates

Editor’s Note: Collegian Staff Writer Cynthia Hernandez recently interviewed the candidates seeking election to Cameron County Precinct 2 commissioner seat. The Collegian attempted several times to contact candidate Enrique Escobedo for an interview. On Thursday, a spokesman for Escobedo said: “He has a forum to attend to right now, and does not have time [for an interview]. I do apologize.”



Name: Victor Alvarez
Age: 57
Hometown: Brownsville
Education: Bachelor’s degree in theology from Salt Lake Baptist College
Family: Married; four children; five grandchildren
Occupation: Pastor of Iglesia Bautista Fundamental
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Experience: Pastor, Cameron Park activist, business experience, counsels married couples and teenagers
What are your accomplishments and how do you think they will prepare you for being a county commissioner? “I have been an activist in Cameron Park. We’ve accomplished to get street lights in here. We’ve accomplished to get paving. We’ve accomplished projects here. I’m the president, right now, of [United for the Progress of Cameron Park]. We’ve accomplished to get scholarships for kids. I serve on the [Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority Board], which will regulate infrastructure to the area. I serve on the Planning and Zoning Committee of the City of Brownsville, trying to bring a business to the area, economic development. ... I have accomplished to put a lot of people, get a lot of people together, to get things done. I’m good at negotiating. When people don’t get along, one of the biggest deficits that we have or needs that we have in our community is that people don’t get along. We just have a lot of problems in our leadership. I have the leadership capabilities. I have the leadership qualifications to help lead people and help understand people and make people come to a consensus.”
What challenges face Precinct 2 and the county—and how will you address them? “We face the challenges of safety and we face the challenge of jobs. The commissioner does not fabricate jobs, the government does not fabricate jobs. The government governs and administers, but we don’t even need them. What we need is to bring more jobs into education. We see the need of people in education. The jobs, infrastructure, health, we have problems in rural areas, drainage, that’s a big problem. You know, when [Hurricane] Dolly came, Precinct 4,

• See ‘Alvarez,’ Page 6



Name: Ernesto De Leon
Age: 74
Hometown: Brownsville
Education: Bachelor of science degree in agronomy from Texas A&M University
Family: Married; five children; four grandchildren
Occupation: Semiretired, but does “consultant work in agriculture”
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Experience: Served twice on the Brownsville City Commission.
What are your accomplishments and how do you think they will prepare you for being a county commissioner? “I worked 12 years in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, then I was recruited by the Texas commissioner of agriculture to start the export program for the state of Texas throughout Latin America, which for about four years I traveled all of Latin America promoting livestock and agriculture products. I’m bilingual, of course. I have international experience, which can help our area. [I have] international experience contacts throughout Latin America.”
What challenges face Precinct 2 and the county—and how will you address them? “Mainly, as you well know, jobs is the main priority. A year ago I contacted ... a company in India. I invited them to come to Brownsville. The brother-in-law to the owner of that company is part owner of the Holiday Inn here in Brownsville. Through him, I was able to deliver a letter to him in India. I invited him to come to look at our area, to Brownsville, because we have the port and we have access to Mexico, our neighbor. We have a lot to offer these companies, if we just get them to come here and look. That is the main thing that we have to do to get the jobs here to our area, so our children can stay here and find a decent job; otherwise, we’re exporting our kids out of this town, out of the county. People look for jobs elsewhere because we don’t have any good-paying jobs here, unfortunately. Secondly, there’s a problem with drainage that overwhelms us. That needs to be addressed *pronto*. There [are] federal funds available that we need to get as soon as possible. Of course, our taxes that we receive and the [revenue] that we have

• See ‘De Leon,’ Page 6



Name: Ruben Peña
Age: 62
Hometown: Three Rivers
Education: Bachelor’s degree in political science and a minor in philosophy from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and a doctor of jurisprudence from St. Mary’s University Law School
Family: Married; four children; three grandchildren
Occupation: Attorney
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Experience: Represented homeowners against the Cameron County Appraisal District; served on the Cameron County Housing Authority; currently on the Andy Bowie Park Ad Hoc Committee, which studies the development of the park on South Padre Island; served on the Cameron County Appraisal District; served as chair of the building committee for the Lord of Divine Mercy church; grand commander of the Alhambra charitable organization; 30 years of legal experience.
What are your accomplishments and how do you think they will prepare you for being a county commissioner? “I think one of what I consider to be my biggest accomplishments is my educational career. It is, I think, a basis for being able to navigate the political and economic problems that we have in Cameron County, so I think that that’s really what sets me apart from other candidates. As a lawyer, I can cut to the heart of the matter and, because of my training, I’m prepared to be able to deal with complex issues locally, but also be able to go to Austin or Washington, D.C., to fight for our community and South Texas.”
What challenges face Precinct 2 and the county—and how will you address them? “I think some of the biggest challenges that we face are more security. We have a great deal of violence that’s going on in Matamoros and people, including the university, have been victimized by that violence, so we need to coordinate both state and federal authorities on both sides of the border—to prevent and stop that violence that’s preventing people from enjoying what we always used to do, which was to go across and enjoy

• See ‘Peña,’ Page 6



Name: Ernie Hernandez
Age: 57
Hometown: Brownsville
Education: Attended Texas Southmost College, Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas at Austin
Family: Married; three children; three grandchildren
Occupation: Owner of Fiesta Graphics
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Experience: Elected to the Brownsville City Commission four times, 35 years in business
What are your accomplishments and how do you think they will prepare you for being a county commissioner? “Some of the major accomplishments, as city commissioner, were bringing airline service back to Brownsville, Continental Airlines; the All-America City award that we received about 10 years ago; economic development throughout the city. When I was elected in 1991, the tax rate was 75 cents per [\$100 valuation], when I left office in early 2007, the tax rate was 65 cents per hundred, so within 10 years and all the growth and all the expansion, services and stuff the city has had within the last say 10 or 12, 15 years we were able to actually reduce taxes. As far as public facilities are concerned, we upgraded many of our parks. We built a new kickball field on the north side of Brownsville that accommodates about 600 to 1,000 young girls a year.”
What challenges face Precinct 2 and the county—and how will you address them? “The No. 1 issue right now is the budget. How do we address the budget? The infrastructure, as far as roads and drainage issues, needs a lot of attention and we still need more deputy sheriffs patrolling the county because, I think, we have sometimes maybe one or two deputy sheriffs per precinct on any given night, which really makes the situation very critical when there’s an emergency response.”
What are your goals if elected? “Basically, to fulfill what I just told you. Try to figure out a way to bring more economic development to the rural areas. The first thing, I think, we need to do is probably make sure we have grant writers in place to take advantage of all the federal

• See ‘Hernandez,’ Page 14



Name: Gerry Linan
Age: 47
Hometown: Brownsville
Education: Bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of jurisprudence from Texas Tech University
Family: Single
Occupation: Lawyer
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Experience: Has practiced law for 15 years, is a past member of the board of directors of the Brownsville Community Health Center and a past president of Brownsville Texas Exes.
What are your accomplishments and how do you think they will prepare you for being a county commissioner? “My accomplishments are my experience with large budgets and large workforces, as when I was on the board of directors of the Brownsville Community Health Center. My economics background will help me with all the funding and budget issues that we’re dealing with. ... My law practice, we deal with people and negotiations all the time. We deal with people getting things for the best—get the best value for the client and it will be the same role for the county commission.”
What challenges face Precinct 2 and the county—and how will you address them? “I think the first challenge is to broaden the tax base of the county, apart from the property tax revenues, to attract more businesses to the county and to Precinct 2. Historically, the industries of Cameron County and Brownsville have been tourism and retail, and we have to broaden that to attract more service industries. That way, we can get more high-paying jobs and increase the tax revenues or the county revenues through those sources. Secondly, I would say, we need to improve our road infrastructure, not just in rural areas, but we need to coordinate with the cities to alleviate the problem. We need to be real thoughtful as to what we do with the west-end parkway and make sure we don’t cut the city into thirds by building another expressway with limited access to cross.”
What are your goals if elected? “Those are my goals. Right away, I want to start attracting new

• See ‘Linan,’ Page 14

5 enter TSC trustee race

By Christine Cavazos
Staff Writer

Five individuals have filed for candidacy, so far, in the May 8 Texas Southmost College District board of trustees election. March 8 is the deadline to file for candidacy, said Kim Sanchez, operations and services manager for the TSC District Office.

Sanchez said drawings for a place on the ballot will take place at 5:30 p.m. March 9 in the Gorgas Hall boardroom. As of press time Thursday, those who had filed for candidacy are Dr. Robert Lozano, a neurologist, and Army Reserve Capt. Rene Coronado, both of whom are seeking the Place 3 seat; attorneys Trey Mendez and Eduardo Rodriguez, who are seeking Place 4; and Place 5 incumbent Rosemary Breedlove.

Alvarez

Continued from Page 5

I believe, even San Benito, Precinct 3, got real trouble with drainage and it takes three votes. It may not be my precinct, but it takes three votes to get anything passed, so we need to see the whole picture--regional. We need to see how we can manage our money. Many times expert politicians say, 'I can manage all this money and I can manage this money.' Well, I come from a background that we've done great things here with little money. Anybody can do great things with a lot of money. ... It takes a real gift to move forward when you have little money. Everybody tells me what they can do if they had money. Well, I can show you what I've been able to do in Cameron Park. The only thing for you to do will be for you to come to Cameron Park and see what I've done with little or nothing--that I've accomplished with nothing. Two years ago, we gave away 13 scholarships for kids of Cameron Park to go to college."

What are your goals if elected? "We will be able to show transparency and accountability and we will be able to communicate with the people. I will be accountable and I will be able to build consensus. We're able to work together and move this county forward. We're staying behind. The only reason we're staying behind is that we're arguing about petty things, things that really don't amount to nothing. ... I'd like to see that we have accountability. I'd like to see that we finish what we start. I'd like to see that we utilize every avenue that we have. I'd like to see that we get some grants. You know, there

[are] so many government grants out there, government and non-government grants that would be offered to us because of our income level down here, our status down here. I don't think we utilize everything there is to use to our benefit. I'd like to see that we open like, monthly or quarterly--town hall meetings so we hear from our constituents and we hear what they're seeing that we can't see. I only have two ears, I only have two eyes, but our precinct and our county--we got all these people here for which we are accountable that can really contribute. I think we need to work together and my goal is that we work together."

Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project? "I am in support of a second causeway and I'll tell you why. No. 1, because it's going to create jobs. No. 2, even though it's going to be a toll road, you're still going to take--in other words, let's say I don't have the \$5 it's going to cost, but you do because time is important to you getting over there. Well, you're one less car on the freeway for me. What happens if we have another accident on this bridge now, [as] we did last time and those people over there--we have no other access. You know, I'm in support of it because it's not paying with tax dollars, it's private funding. I'm in support of it. [It] creates jobs, it puts a lot of people to work, it develops infrastructure, it develops the north side of that island; it brings economy. We need jobs--the biggest employer down here is [the] Brownsville Independent School District; after that, I think it's Wal-Mart, then H-E-B. We're an inverted society. We

really don't have [any] industry down here and we have no tourism. I mean, this will open up tourism 10 times greater. ... The only thing you can't replace is time because even money can be replaced. Imagine that you have a sister that's married. She's at work. She's got to go pick up the baby at the daycare. If she doesn't get there by 5 [p.m.], they will charge her an extra \$10 [or] \$25. Do you think she'll pay \$2 to get on that road to save \$23? That's what I'm driving at. We want to be like the rest of America, but we don't want to understand that we need to infrastructure businesses. So, yes, I am in favor of a second causeway. Where it is? I don't know, but we need a second causeway. The status of that project, off the top of my head, I can't tell you, but we're down to five places where it's going to land."

Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not? "I have open ears to the West Parkway project, and I'll tell you why. I'm listening to what the people are saying. The one thing that has not been checked--it will be built with private money and [we] need to know if it's economically feasible. In other words, it may not even come about because we're going to find out that no one's going to use it, so there's no feasibility to pay for it. No one's going to invest money to build something that won't pay for itself. I still have an open mind. I'm listening to the people. I understand the controversy that it is and my ears, I got to two ears, and they're open. I'm only one vote on the [Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority]. I'm only one vote. I've made no conclusion. I've got an open mind, listening to everybody and every

side of it, those in favor, those against it and I'm waiting to hear everything else. I'd like to see an alternative. I'd like to see those people who don't want it willing to produce a real alternative. I can tell you a lot of things and then I follow through to find out if it's feasible. I'd like them to show me not just why not, but what else, what's the other option. There is not money to build more roads. There's no state money to build roads. There is not federal money. If it's going to be built, it's going to be built with private money and it needs to show that it's feasible."

How will you address the decline in international bridge revenue? And, would that include a property tax increase? "I don't have a real answer to that. This is what I do have an answer to: no more taxes. We can't continue to tax people. Sixty percent of our budget comes from taxes, from land taxes. I think the budget's about \$159 [million]. I looked at it about a couple of weeks [ago] and then the rest comes from different facets. ... We're not going to raise taxes. I'm not going to raise taxes; we're not going to raise the value of property, we cannot tax these poor people more. Now, the dropping revenue, it has to do with the economy. We are the door to the south. In other words, if there's business, people will pay the toll [to] come sell what they got in Mexico and this business will pay the toll to go to Mexico to buy what's over there. Some of it is economically related, some of it is other factors and we will have to look where we can manage better money to make adjustments, but raising taxes is completely out of the question."

De Leon

Continued from Page 5

received [from] the [international] bridges and other things that we have in the county are not enough, so we need to find grants. We need to find things like that to where we can help bring these types of things and do what we can and get it done soon. What's taking a long time also [is] our roads and throughout the county there needs to be--they need to be fixed real bad. I understand they don't have the money. I can tell you I've been there. Just with what I see, what I read in a few meetings that I have attended ... we need funds for the county to get these things done that they desperately need. ... Our county security officers that work for the sheriff's department are underpaid, so I've heard. Those are complaints that I've heard. We need to make it so they can earn a decent living since they put their life on the line for our citizens, so we can sleep well at night. So, if they're doing the same job [as] the police and the Border Patrol ... then

they ought to be compensated. I don't know that we can give them the exact pay comparable to the U.S. government, which I doubt that we can, but something that can be arranged. I need to first get involved, ask questions, since [I'm] going in there without any knowledge whatsoever in county business. I've been in the city business. ... In the county, I'm not familiar with exactly how those funds are managed, so I need to study before I can give you a definite answer."

What are your goals if elected? "To make Cameron County the best county in South Texas and we can accomplish that not by myself, but with the cooperation of every commissioner and judge that are elected to serve Cameron County. By myself, I cannot do anything, but united, together, you're dat gum sure we can do things and work together to make things happen. It's a give-and-take situation, where everybody cooperates and pulls the wagon in the same direction; otherwise, the wagon won't move."

Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not?

that we have in our county. It doesn't affect the university very much, but it may in the future because our levees are not properly prepared to withstand a severe hurricane, so it could inundate the university if we don't start taking steps [in] shoring up our levees. The third thing,

What is the status of that project? "Yes, I see the needs for it. Of course, just by what I read in the papers and what I see on TV that it's definitely needed and it would alleviate the traffic problems and the Island, the north part of the Island, is fixing to be developed and that will take care of it. I believe it will be built within 10 years."

Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not? "No, I do not. I oppose it. I have a friend of mine who's a candidate for Texas commissioner of agriculture and he has studied the toll road project and he told me it doesn't work. It hasn't worked here, it hasn't worked in the United States and it hasn't worked in several other countries and I do not want get our taxpayers left holding the bag."

How will you address the decline in international bridge revenue? And, would that include a property tax increase? "If you know me, I'm not at all in favor of raising taxes and I will show you an article that was published in '79 in *The Brownsville Herald*. ...

I went to fight a 6 percent tax increase in the city of Brownsville and we were fortunate enough to get it voted down, and since '79, I've been working and trying to alleviate the tax burden on the citizens of Brownsville [and] now on the citizens of Cameron County, as well. We need to make sure that the money is spent wisely. There's a lot of money that's wasted. I think I showed you where I saved the Brownsville Independent School District \$2.1 million by just watching and seeing that the money is spent wisely. That \$2.1 million would have been gone and that was money that was going to be spent in the Veterans Memorial High School. Of course, they did not have enough water pressure in case of a fire, the fire department wouldn't be able to open the doors, but thank God [the Brownsville Public Utilities Board] came in and underbid the only bid that they had by \$2.1 million. That was a savings to the Brownsville Independent School District taxpayers and like that, I plan to do for the county and I've done it for the city before."

Peña

Continued from Page 5

Matamoros. That's one of the big problems. The other problem is the huge drainage problem

that we have in our county. It doesn't affect the university very much, but it may in the future because our levees are not properly prepared to withstand a severe hurricane, so it could inundate the university if we don't start taking steps [in] shoring up our levees. The third thing,

I think, is the jail situation. We've got a problem with our jail system in that we have to house federal prisoners and pay other counties for housing our own prisoners, so those are just three--I can go on and on. There [are] a lot of issues that face the county, but those are, I think,

the three main ones."

What are your goals if elected? "My No. 1 goal is to listen to the citizens of Precinct 2 and prioritize needs because we can't do everything

See 'Peña,' Page 14

The Camille Playhouse Presents

RENT

Student Preview Performance
and Spaghetti Dinner
Thursday, March 11, 2010
6:30 pm

The Camille Playhouse
1 Dean Porter Park
Brownsville, TX 78520
Box Office 956-542-8900
camilleplayhouseonline.com

Tickets only \$10

THE EINSTEIN Mathematics
LEARNING CENTER

E=mc²

Get help in...

- Compass Test
- College Algebra
- Pre-Calculus
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Writing and Reading
- One-to-One Tutoring or Group

Jose D. Navarro
74 South Price Plaza (Next to Subway)
jdn44math@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (956) 544-0305 Mobile: (956) 639-4315

Viewpoint
And who is the winner?

By Francisco Garza
Webcast Editor

The 82nd Academy Awards are coming up on Sunday. Of all the categories, the largest and most anticipated is the Best Picture category. We hear about it each year--movies get nominated, one wins and many lose. With the largest pool of nominees since 1943, I felt the need to take a look at the nominees and explore their differences.

Have you ever wondered why it is that a movie wins? There are many reasons a movie can win best picture. It could be that it has a charming cast and a smart story like "Up in the Air." Or, it can be a movie that breaks away from what's expected from its genre and becomes a classic that everyone can enjoy, like "Up."

Some movies, like "An Education," "The Blind Side"

• See 'Oscars,' Page 8

Fashion forward: florals and denim

By Rene Cardona Jr.
Staff Writer

With a new season in fashion around the corner, two 23-year-old Rio Grande Valley entrepreneurs are promoting some of the spring's soon-to-be-hot items that have already hit the shelves.

How about an animal head for your fingers? Monica Cavazos, a South Texas College business marketing student and owner of monikapolitan.com, thinks they are a must for spring. The McAllen native said her clothing and accessory site attracts a global clientele ages 12 to 25 and has 3,000 to 4,000 hits a day.

"If I wouldn't wear it, it's really hard for me to buy it for my store," Cavazos said. "But I try to step out of my box and buy things that I think maybe other people would like or maybe other people would wear, but for the most part, I try to keep it my own style, and it seems to be working pretty [well]."

Cavazos said rings are making a comeback this spring, basing her suggestions on customer feedback, blog and magazine research, and street observations. Cavazos

recommends women invest in big, bulky, bold rings, especially ones with an animal head design such as an owl, tiger, lion or leopard. Other hot options, Cavazos said, are long rings that cover a large part of the finger. Both types are available at urbanoutfitters.com.

As for other jewelry, Cavazos suggests layered or bulky necklaces, available at Forever 21.

"It's not simple anymore; it's all about layers and layers of chains," she said. "You buy one necklace and it looks like you're buying 20 necklaces because it's a lot of chains put together or like one thick chain."

Another must-have for the season is the floppy hat that will keep the sun's rays well away from your eyes with its oversized brim. Cavazos herself has invested in one after seeing them in Forever 21.

"I bought a black velvet one, and I love it," she said. "I haven't worn it yet, but I'm waiting for spring to wear it. I think those are really cute for spring."

Bowler hats, also termed Chaplin hats, Cavazos said, are another option.

"I know they've been kind of in



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Flipside clothing store in Edinburg sells vintage and new clothing.

for a while, but I'm starting to notice more people wearing them," she said. "I've been noticing like Target and Forever 21, they have the exact same style now."

Futuristic, square and blocky describe the perfect pair of sunglasses

for this spring, Cavazos said, after getting many requests on her Web site for such eyewear. The wayfarer, made popular by Ray-Ban, will still be a great choice, but another option for women is the '50s cat-eye

• See 'Fashion' Page 8



Name: Rico Rios

Age: 25

Classification: Freshman

Major: Communication

Zodiac Sign: Aries

What are your hobbies? "I like writing stories. I am a filmmaker, so I like involving myself, my imagination."

What puts you in a good mood? "Seeing someone I care about."

What is the first thing you notice about a person you are attracted to? "The eyes."

How is your ideal girl: "Smart, capable, with a sense of humor."

How do you approach women? "In a very unassuming way ... very casual."

What is the first thing you think about in the morning when you wake up? "Today's gonna be another good day!"

How do you see yourself in 10 years? "I know I'm gonna be making films in Hollywood or Canada."

Have you ever been caught

doing something you are not supposed to? "Yeah."

What was the last compliment you received? "The woman who was cutting my hair said she liked the shape of my head. I've never heard that before."

Who was the last person to tell you "I love you"? "My grandma."

What is your favorite quote? "There's two types of people in this world: the ones who come into the room and say 'here I am' and the ones that say 'there you are'--that's my favorite quote."

Free Association Quiz:

USA: "All the way."

Friendship: "Bracelet."

Parents: "Just don't understand."

Music: "It's my life."

--Compiled by Luciana Morales
If you would like to be featured in Cupid's Corner, call Cleiri Quezada at 882-5782 or send her an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu.

'Scopes

By Francisco Garza
Webcast Editor

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20): Remember that a kiss can say everything about you. So, gargling might be a good idea before that big date you have this week.

Aries (March 21-April 19): You, my friend, are happy-go-lucky! Always chipper, always positive--for you, the glass is always half-full. You are going to need that attitude this week after you fail your exams.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Have you found yourself with much more spare time than you used to have? If so, you should start a marching band! You would probably suck, but at least you get to wear those funny hats.

Gemini (May 21- June 21): I just wanted to remind you that it is OK to cry, especially if someone steps on you. I mean, that's just awful.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Life is like a tournament. Just hope you get the byes.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23): If you

were a superhero, you would be Superman. Not because you're strong and brave, but because you look great with your underwear over your pants.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22): If you drive by an accident, do not slow down and try to get a glimpse. No, instead you should speed up and try to get home as soon as possible to see if it's on TV already.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You really should not bring your security blanket to school. It's not that you look weird, but you could get it dirty.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If someone calls you a geek, tell them they're wrong! Your Star Wars figurine collection is solely a monetary investment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're not weird. You are a singularity.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This week, try to make new friends; you never know when you're going to need help moving.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Faster is not always better, especially when juggling chainsaws.

Yoga Studio

Yoga Class

- Levels Beginners I, II & Intermediate

Pilates

60 Years and Up

- Mondays 12 pm-1:15 pm

*Free Community Class

Call us for information. Limited space available.



Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 1:00 & 5:00 to 8:00
(956) 546-9642 805 Media Luna Rd. Ste. 500 Brownsville, TX. 78520
www.Yoga-Studio.net

Philly's
AMERICANA CHEESESTEAKS

\$1.50 Lonestars
Every Wed. Night

Old School Hip-Hop DJ
10pm-2am Every Wednesday!

Happy Hour Mon - Fri • 5-7 pm • \$2.00 Dom.

Home of the Cheesesteak Challenge

OPEN EVERY DAY

HD TVs • Dart Board • Pool Table • Jukebox •
Karaoke • Patio Seating • Live Music on the deck

2155 N. Expy. Brownsville | Ph. (956) 554-7000

Authentic Philly
Cheesesteaks

We import our rolls from
Philadelphia from the
same bakery used by
the original Philly
cheesesteak restaurant,
Pat's King of Steaks.

5% Discount
UTB Students
(With ID)

NOW HIRING!
Cooks & Waitresses

phillysamericana.com



MANUEL REYNA/COLLEGIAN

Rosalinda Amaro Galarza, a counselor and chief GED examiner for the Brownsville Independent School District, asks about students who do not receive financial aid during Tuesday's Community Advisory Partnership Committee meeting. Also shown is BISD Hearing Officer Edward Ude.

Partnership

Continued from Page 1

"What we need to know about this is that if you are thinking about the concerns about cost, when you are trying to develop a policy to respond to your social or market concerns about cost, you should understand that in our case, one-fourth of our students are the ones that we are talking about," Putegnat said. "The others are well taken care of. ... Roughly, a quarter of our students pay an amount of money that is above the community college rate. So, it's an interesting point, though, that David [Merrill] was right one-fourth of the time."

He said financial aid for students comes from different sources, such as the TSC Endowment, Texas Grant, Pell Grant and the TSC Trustee scholarship.

Committee member Rosalinda Amaro Galarza, a counselor and chief GED examiner for the Brownsville Independent School District, reminded fellow members about those students who do not receive any type of financial aid. Amaro Galarza asked how much it costs to attend TSC for those students who pay out of their pocket, compared with other community colleges.

"For 25 percent of students, I would say we are twice as expensive as other community colleges, but for 75 percent of the students, we are the same or less," Putegnat replied.

UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia said it was 'unrealistic' to say students who attend TSC are paying more for fewer advantages. Garcia said students are 'paying more for more.'

"A student can go to TSTC, for example, or South Texas College, which is the community college that we talked about and major in an occupational or technical program and pay half of what they pay here," she said. "They are not going to a university and they are not getting all of the other benefits that come from a university. [I'm] not talking about the REK Center or the [other] constructions. I'm talking about the environment [students] are in, the professors and the environment that they have, to move from one lower-division degree to an upper-division degree, what it looks like in a resumé."

Manuel Medrano, a UTB/TSC history professor and committee member, asked how stable financial aid has been in the last couple of years.

Rosemary Martinez, vice president for Business Affairs, replied that the financial aid budget has increased since President Obama took office.

"The financial aid amount actually increased," Martinez said. "It went from \$4,800 last year to \$5,300 this year to \$5,500 next year, and, so, those amounts have already been approved with the Obama budget. We've had some pretty significant increases in the last couple of years."

sunglasses, like the wayfarer, which are offered in a variety of colors and color combos that have one color on the front of the frames and another on the back. As an alternative, Cavazos suggests the John Lennon flip sunglasses that have circular darker lenses covering clear lenses, which have previously sold out on her Web site.

Plimsoll-style shoes, characterized by a canvas top with laces and rubber bottom, are

It has not declined in the last, ever, as far back as I have looked."

Graduation rate

Another issue discussed was the university's current problem of students not graduating within four years.

Putegnat said that in Fall 2001, there were 797 first-time, full-time students enrolled at UTB/TSC. Six years later, 129 of those students had graduated with a bachelor's degree, 63 with an associate's and 20 with certificates, while 158 students were still enrolled.

He also showed that within eight years, 734, or 48 percent, of a co-hort of 1,527 first-time, full-time students completed their degree.

University officials said there is an 84 percent dropout rate, which means only 16 percent of students who start out at UTB/TSC graduate.

Lease payments

Another decision to change the UTB/TSC partnership agreement was spurred by a 2008 conflict in which the TSC District tried to collect \$10.8 million in lease payments from the UT System.

Garcia told *The Collegian* it is up to the state of Texas, not the UT System, to provide the money for lease payments.

"Every year we calculate how many of the facilities are available for being leased by UT and so that calculation goes to our request to the Texas Legislature," Garcia said. "... For the last several years we have been submitting the total amount that is owed. We have been receiving less than the total amount, so the accrued value of the lease money that has not come to us is about \$11 million. It's already been resolved; they owe us \$11 million. The question is, when do they pay us in the near future?"

Asked how much the university is receiving, Garcia referred *The Collegian* to Martinez.

In an e-mail she sent Wednesday, Martinez said, "TSC receives \$1,360,000 per year, or \$2,720,000 over the biennium."

The current agreement

The Collegian obtained a copy of the partnership agreement between Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas System from the TSC District Office. The pact outlines the responsibilities of TSC and UT-Brownsville.

Under its responsibilities, TSC must:

—provide adequate revenue, including state appropriations, ad valorem tax collections, and tuition and fees to fund a full share of the annual budget

—provide adequate revenue, including state appropriations, ad valorem tax collections

and the satisfaction of payments on bonded indebtedness.

—establish tuition and fees for lower division courses and occupational/technical offerings.

—request state appropriations in accordance with community college formula.

—provide through lease the use of buildings and facilities necessary for UT to perform assignment.

—retain title to all real property and assets, although the real property and assets are leased to UT.

—construct additional facilities or expand existing facilities as needed to support mutually agreed upon programs.

—provide for rehabilitation and major repair of facilities.

—define educational needs and provide appropriate funding for lower-division offerings and occupational/technical education.

—fund appropriate share of overhead functions

UT-Brownsville's responsibilities include:

—offer and teach community college-level courses on behalf of and under contract with TSC.

—employ faculty, staff and other employees to implement all TSC and UT academic programs including occupational/technical programs under contract.

—fund appropriate share of overhead functions.

—lease TSC facilities and perform routine and minor preventive maintenance on TSC real property and assets leased to UT-Brownsville pursuant to an agreed operational budget.

Committee's recommendations

After each of the Community Advisory Committee meetings, recommendations were noted. At the third and final meeting on Tuesday, those recommendations were presented to the panel. They include:

—preserving the community college mission (open admissions, affordability, commitment to the community)

—increasing resources

—higher completion rates

—TSC board role in community-college type programs (flexible response to community market needs)

—jobs and higher incomes (expanded professional degrees and programs)

—other (living wage policy for all employees, a branding strategy to promote UTB/TSC's image in the community, increased investment in institutional development to raise external funding).

Fashion

Continued from Page 7

sunglasses.

"I've also been noticing in magazines ... the '50s cat-eye sunglasses are also coming back, but [now] with a thicker frame," she said. "They aren't really small anymore; they're kind of huge, but they still have that point at the ends."

Cavazos recommends men stick to simple

a great pick for men this spring due to their simplicity and price on urbanoutfitters.com, Cavazos said.

"I love when guys wear those, and they have them in like every color ... [and] two for \$30 on Urban Outfitters," she said. "I like a lot of color, so I would say maybe [get] a neutral color but also, I mean they are two for \$30, so you can get a neutral one, you can wear a lot and then get a crazy color like ... mint green."

Oxford-style jazz flats will be a versatile, stylish option for women, Cavazos said. Notable colors include shiny black and gold, which are available on tomsshoes.com. A floral print from urbanoutfitters.com is a good option that Cavazos has purchased.

"I always get compliments on them," she said. "They have floral [prints] all over them, and everyone always asks me where I got them

• See 'Fashion,' Page 12

AUTO•HOME•LIFE•RENTERS AND MORE....



Susan K. Rosales

At home or in-office
appointments available

3461 Carmen Ave., Ste. 1
Rancho Viejo

(956) 350-0012

www.farmersagent.com/srosales



FARMERS®

Gets you back where you belong.®

Four GREAT Reasons To Vote For Victor Alvarez!

I will: **Listen** to the people of Cameron County!
I want to be your voice in our County government.

Vote on all the issues. I will not abstain from voting on important issues unless there is an apparent conflict of interest.

Finish my entire term of office. I will serve my four years and not use this office as a steppingstone to another position.

Work to maintain a balanced budget. Fiscal responsibility is not a discussion; it's a must!



Victor Alvarez 2010
Candidate for Cameron County Commissioner - Pct. 2

vict1952@aol.com | (956) 592-1916 | www.victoralvarez2010.com

POL. ADV.
PAID FOR
BY THE
CAND.

PWS
wants you

By Julianna Sosa
Collegian Editor

Men have a networking system and women need one, too.

The Professional Women Speak organization is reaching out to students, faculty and staff in an effort to build a stronger foundation and network for women on campus.

PWS has been successful in hosting events that empower women, such as the mother-daughter conference hosted last November. The conference encourages high school girls to attend institutions of higher education, as well as mothers who might not have had a chance to attend college.

The women in the organization are eager to get the word out about PWS.

“It’s very interesting to see how the organization has evolved to addressing different issues,” said Betsy Price, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. “At one time it was women’s issues at home, how do you deal with the husband, how do you deal with the family and now we are dealing with more professional women that are looking at how do you advance in your career, how do you dress, how do you act, how do you network.”

In 1981, PWS was established by UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García; Ethel Cantu, associate vice president for Academic Affairs; Virginia Wood, a professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department; and Lucy Willis, a professor in the Modern Languages Department.

Price said the organization was established when women still had to battle “that glass ceiling” and everything was still male-dominated.

“[García and others] knew that women here were going to start getting an education and that would make a different world for them, so they started this organization to identify successful women,” Price said.

To join Professional Women Speak, call Price at 882-7334.

I am woman: ‘Hear Me Roar’

By Julianna Sosa
Collegian Editor

Today marks the beginning of Women’s History Month and the university will host a series of events that echo this year’s national theme: “Writing Women Back into History.”

This is “Stop the Violence” week and kicks off with a V-Men workshop. The workshop explores how men can work within the community to address the issue of violence against women and takes place at 7 p.m. today in the Education and Business Complex’s Salon Cassia.

The “Vagina Monologues” is a provocative show performed by students, staff and faculty and meant to raise awareness of violence against women and young girls. Senior history major Vallerie Hernandez, who is one of the directors of the show, said the content touches on lighthearted to serious issues, such as

female genital mutilation and rape.

“It mentions some things from feminine products to teenage sex slavery, so it’s a good show, it has variety,” Hernandez said.

The show will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday and at noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public.

Another big event taking place this week is the Professional Women Speak spring conference, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in Salon Cassia.

Rosa Rosales, the national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, will speak about putting women back into history.

Rosales is scheduled to speak at 9:30 a.m., after which the conference will break out into groups to discuss issues

affecting women today.

Rosales was first elected president of LULAC, a civil rights organization, in July 2006. She also has served as its Texas state director, District 15 director—the largest district in the nation—and is a member of its National Educational Service Centers board.

She was born in San Antonio and holds a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts from the University of Michigan, according to the LULAC Web site. Rosales is married and has three sons and a granddaughter.

Other events this week include the showing of “Precious,” an Academy Award-nominated movie, at 7 p.m. Friday in the Student Union’s Gran Salon.

In the “Clothesline

First in a series:
Celebrating
womanhood



Census

Continued from Page 1

a media specialist for the Census Bureau. “This is my first time working for the census and I’ve been out in the field now and I keep hearing people say, ‘I’ve never been counted in the census and I’ve been living here for 50 years now in the [Rio Grande] Valley.’ We’re hoping that won’t be the case this time.”

Some of the efforts to try to bring the unincorporated populations into the mainstream include the use of local organizations to help spread the word. The local organizations, or partners, are brought into the effort by partnership specialists, Salinas said.

“[A partnership specialist is] the one that goes out and makes a contact and builds a partnership with, for example, any kind of group like the *promotoras* ... that has direct contact with the *colonias*,” he said. “The purpose of a partnership specialist is to make these alliances or partnerships, educate those in charge or the representatives of said groups to then in turn educate their constituents.”

There are more than 125 local partners, which range from local clinics to larger organizations. Cities are also included, such as the City

of Brownsville, which sponsored the census in one way by including a census advertisement on its float for the Charro Days parades last weekend.

Many of the organizations who participate in the census outreach are outreach organizations themselves. One such partner is the Texas A&M University Center for Housing and Urban Development *Colonias* Program.

“One of the things that we do is establish and build relationships,” said Laura Treviño, an associate director of the program. “In building a relationship, when new partnerships come in or new opportunities for residents come in, then we go to our established networks, and our established networks can be anything from the resident leaders to the local clinics, the county governments, whatever the case may be.

“If we already have established relationships, for example looking at the Brownsville area, with ... Project Arise or Mano a Mano, we can basically facilitate a confrontation or meeting.”

Other partners are groups made specifically for obtaining the most accurate count possible, such as the complete count committees. The complete count committees



DAVID BOON/COLLEGIAN

The City of Brownsville, one of the U.S. Census Bureau’s partners, has supported the 2010 Census in one way by adding an advertisement for the survey on the back of its float for the Charro Days parades.

are often, but not always, groups of “super partners,” Salinas said, who have a larger pool of resources or have a wider contact range.

“A complete count committee is a group of volunteers that is established by the local government or community leaders,” said Julian Peña, a partnership specialist with the Census Bureau. “This is to increase awareness about the census and motivate residents inside a community.

“The complete count committee is in touch to develop and implement a plan designed to target the unique

characteristics of the community. Without the complete count committees, it would be very hard for us. They’re a very strong asset for the census.”

Gloria Moreno sits on Cameron County’s complete count committee as a representative of Cameron Park, where she has lived for 30 years. At more than 6,000 people, Cameron Park is one of the largest *colonias* in the county.

Areas like Cameron Park will face many difficulties in being counted,

• See ‘Census,’ Page 12

CATERING SERVICE

Enjoy a Little Bit of Mexico at Your Next Event!

MI PUEBLITO OFFERS BANQUET AND CATERING SERVICES
TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS FROM TAQUIZAS TO SPECIALTY MENU ITEMS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
956-455-3543 01152(868) 813 8723 - 816 0586
e-mail: mipueblito1@prodigy.net.mx www.mi-pueblito.com
MATAMOROS, MEXICO

SWEET GREAT ESCAPE AND SPRING BREAK PACKAGES CONSIST OF:

- * HOTELS
- * CONDOS
- * RESORTS
- * CARIBBEAN CRUISES

TOP DESTINATIONS:

- * ACAPULCO
- * BAHAMAS
- * CANCUN
- * PUERTO VALLARTA
- * DAYTONA BEACH
- * SWEET QUICK CLICK
DISNEY TRIPS

SWEET2FLY.ROVIA.COM



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN
After the Golf Cart Parade, a staff member of the Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center takes the children backstage before their performance for Mr. Amigo 2009.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN
Mr. Amigo 2009, Vicente Fernandez Jr., sings for the crowd at the Student Union.

Amigo

Continued from Page 1

The president also presented Mr. Amigo with a Scorpion pin.
“It is also my honor [to give to you a] ... one-of-a-kind, designer pin mascot, designed by [artist] Sergio Bustamante himself in sterling silver,” Garcia said.
Each year, the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen based on his or her contribution to international friendship and development of mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Mexico. The recognition is part of the city’s annual Charro Days celebration.
Among the audience were about 450 students,



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN
Members of UTB/TSC's Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán dance to “Lindo Nayarit” during the Mr. Amigo program.

faculty and staff who anxiously awaited the arrival of Mr. Amigo.
Government major Mark Figueroa believes the Mr. Amigo event was memorable.
“The event was awesome, it’s going to be very memorable and I am just glad that I was able to come out and be a part of it,” Figueroa said.
He said he felt honored to have seen Fernandez.
“Mr. Amigo, Vicente Fernandez Jr., is a cool guy,” Figueroa said. “The music was really awesome and it was really nice of him to be able to come out.”
Also enjoying the event was freshman Jhuree Lopez, who praised García’s speech.
“My favorite part of the event was when they presented everybody and just said how they should be building a bridge instead of building walls,” Lopez said.
The Mr. Amigo event was filled with the many traditional colors, music and entertainment that unite the people of Brownsville and Matamoros.
Earlier in the day, 19 brightly decorated golf carts representing UTB/TSC’s departments and student organizations cruised from Tandy Hall to the Student Union lawn in a parade. The carts were decorated in crepe and papier-maché chili peppers, mini sombreros, *zarapes* and red, white and green pennants.
UTB/TSC Career Counselor Monica Hernandez participated for the first time in the event.
“This is the very first year that I work here and so doing all this was brand-new to me,” Hernandez said. “I just got [my outfit] together as quickly as I could. The [people at the] department where I’m working at were already getting me kind of used to the idea of getting ready for this whole big event that you all have here.”
Riding in another decorated golf cart was 5-

UTB/TSC Women’s History Month

March 1-5	All Day	Clothesline Project
March 1	7 p.m.	V-Men Workshop 2010: Violence Prevention for Men
March 2	7 p.m.	“The Vagina Monologues”
March 3	12 p.m. and 7 p.m.	“The Vagina Monologues”
March 5	7 p.m.	Movie: “Precious”
March 6	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Professional Women Speak 2010 Spring Conference
March 8	12-1 p.m.	International Women’s Day Panel
March 10	6-8 p.m.	Sexual Assault Prevention Seminar
March 11	6-8 p.m.	Sexual Assault Prevention Seminar
March 11	8 p.m.	Take Back the Night
March 24	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Professional Development Fair
March 26	3:30-8 p.m.	UTB/TSC Student Women’s Leadership Conference
March 29	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Women on Weights
	5:30-6:30 p.m.	
March 30	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Women on Weights
	5:30-6:30 p.m.	
March 31	12-1 p.m.	Fit to be Fabulous!
March 31	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Women’s Health Fair
March 1-31		Women in History Door Decorating Contest
March 1-31		Women in History Essay Contest

Presented by:
Campus REK Center
Career Services
Communication Council
Dean of Students Office
Dr. Zelma Mata
Friendship of Women
Mixed Martial Arts Club
Office of Residential Life
Sigma Psi Delta
Student Health Services
Student Life Office
Student Union
Professional Women Speak
UTB/TSC Students
Employee Volunteers

For details and contact information for each event, log on to: <http://www.utb.edu/sa/dos/>

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

year-old Carlos Amaro, representing the Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center, who proudly wore a traditional *charro* outfit.

He said his favorite part of the event was riding on the cart and waving at the crowd.

Carlos’ father, Carlos Amaro, was among the audience who cheered him on during the parade.

A pre-show featuring various artists and groups followed the golf cart parade.

To get the crowd at the Student Union going, entertainment was provided by Banda La Quineña, composed of UTB/TSC Fine Arts students; local band Grupo Conteño, headed by UTB/TSC employee Juan Longoria; singer Juan Chapa, a Physical Plant carpenter; and Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán, headed by Health and Human Performance Department Chair Zelma Mata, and UTB/TSC Mariachi Escorpion, directed by music Professor Antonio Briseño.

After Grupo Conteño finished performing, Fernandez arrived in a bright green charro suit embroidered with gold, yellow and light green flowers, which made him stand out among the rest of the guests on the stage.

Mariachi Escorpion performed “*Fallaste Corazon*,” “*El Pastor*” and “*Guadalajara*.”

Afterward, Fernandez stood up and asked the audience if they would like for him to sing.

The audience roared with excitement as they responded with an overwhelming yes.

“You know, the most beautiful songs are the ones that come from the heart and are not rehearsed,” he said. “... I want to sing a song that has been very important to me and I want to dedicate it to all of you and to the [Mariachi Escorpion], who proudly represent Mexican music, and to everyone whose father still lives.”

Fernandez ended up singing three songs: “*Cuando yo quiera ser grande*,” “*Amor de los dos*” and “*El tiempo pasa*.”

The audience gave him a standing ovation every time he stood up.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN
Alumnus Brenda Lerma holds her daughter, Melanie Nicole Lerma, as Melanie dances to the music.



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN
Under the direction of Zelma Mata, Health and Human Performance Department chair (right), members of UTB/TSC's Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán perform a traditional dance from the Mexican state of Nayarit during the Mr. Amigo program.



LUCIANA MORALES/COLLEGIAN
Student Government Association President Ruby de la Fuente takes part in Thursday's Golf Cart Parade.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN
Brownsville Navigation District Commissioner Ralph Cowen dances with Alma Muriel, an actress and guest of Matamoros' Fiestas Mexicanas.

Scorpion Academy

MARCH 23 - April 2



For more information, please contact the SGA Office at 882-5877 or e-mail rosalinda.rangel10@utb.edu

Monday 22 Call and Registration	Tuesday 23 Salon Cassia (EDBC) 6-6:30 p.m. Welcome SGA Introduction 7-8 p.m. Campus Police	Wednesday 24 Salon Cassia (EDBC) 7-9 p.m. District Attorney's Office Crime Victims Unit Domestic Violence Unit	Thursday 25 Salon Cassia (EDBC) 7-9 p.m. Brownsville PD Lt. Oscar Maldonado and Sgt. Rolando Avitia (SIMULATOR)	Friday 26 Salon Cassia (EDBC) 7-8 p.m. Drug Enforcement Agency - Agent Delaunay 8-9 p.m. Integrated Global Knowledge & Understanding Collaboration
Monday 29 EIDMAN 106 7-9 p.m. Crime Scene Investigation* Dr. Michael Lytle *Bring digital cameras	Tuesday 30 SET-B (3rd floor) 7-8 p.m. Criminal Justice Institute Mr. Hector Ramos	Wednesday 31 7-9 p.m. Firing Range and Fire Arm Safety (Tentative)	Thursday 1 7-9 p.m. South Lawn BISD K-9 Unit & Brownsville PD Bomb Squad	Friday 2 SET-B (3rd floor) Noon Closing Ceremony Pick up Certificate and Scorpion Academy T-shirt

Tolerance

Continued from Page 3

God make her black,” Coan said. “I had to sit down and talk to her and tell her that God likes difference, you know God makes us different and that it’s good to be different.”

At age 19, Coan moved to North Carolina and lived there for two years. She was not called any derogatory names, but there was a pressure to pick a side.

While working at Target she noticed people would group themselves according to their race or ethnicity when they would sit down to eat lunch.

“They chose to segregate themselves,” she said. “If I sat at the wrong table, it was the worst thing I could have done. ‘You’re supposed to be Hispanic and you’re sitting at the black table, how dare you. You’re black and you’re sitting at the white table, how dare you.’”

She found it ridiculous to have to limit herself to sit with a specific group.

Coan would like to see people be more accepting of others’ differences, but knows it is not easily attainable.

“I think the reality is that you’re going to get some discrimination, until everybody’s fine with it, which I don’t think is going to ever happen,” she said. “I think you’re still going to get discrimination and you just have to learn how to tough it out.”

Ayala said people should apply the “Golden Rule” of treating others as they would like to be treated.

“Develop self-compassion and compassion for others, since one cannot know them until you walk in their shoes,” he said.

Census

Continued from Page 9

Moreno said. There are many stumbling blocks, such as typical work schedule, a fear of the government and the English-Spanish language barrier.

“The other barrier is that many people think they will be reported [to immigration authorities] but that’s not going to happen because census has nothing to do with immigration,” Moreno said in Spanish via telephone. “They believe it’s not confidential and they think they are going to be reported but that is a myth, it’s not true. No, it’s not going to be used for immigration.”

However, there are still several steps to go before the form is delivered later this month. Before the census form is sent via mail, those living in at-risk areas will have already received the census form, Salinas said.

“There’s two operations that are about to get going early March--Update Enumerate and Update Leave,” he said. “What that means is that these homes are actually going to have a census employee visit that home instead of having a questionnaire delivered to their mailbox.”

Communities designated to be part of the Update Leave program will need to keep an eye out for the census questionnaire on their doorknob, Salinas said. In this program, census employees will hand-deliver the form to the address, but will not administer the questions.

“Update Enumerate is when [the employees] arrive at the homes and they ask them the questions, but the census employee is writing down the answers,” he said. “So they don’t ever receive a questionnaire, they are just get the questions.”

Because of the differences the Update Enumerate and Update Leave programs have from the usual census delivery, the information relayed to communities that will be under these programs is slightly different.

“It’s important that we educate people on what a census employee looks like, and what the census is asking and not asking,” Salinas said. “The census employee will be wearing a census badge, an official badge that will be clearly visible. ... He’ll have a bag that has an official census logo on it. He’ll have official census documents in that bag. When he knocks on the door, he’ll say ‘Let me show you a confidentiality notice.’”

Most importantly, the employees will only ask questions that are on the census.

“If they start asking questions about your credit card numbers, or your Social Security numbers, or your employment history, or if you’re undocumented or not, that’s an automatic red flag and you know they’re not a census employee,” Salinas said.

Regardless of difficulties, the Census Bureau aims for a complete count on April 1, which is the day that the mailed census form is due back.

“We, the Census Bureau, cannot do this alone,” Peña said. “We require the assistance of our partners, individuals, groups and organizations across the nation to help us out.”

Fashion

Continued from Page 8

from.”

Floral prints received a definitive “yes” as a must-have for spring from Daniel Martinez, a clothing designer and co-owner of Flipside, a store in Edinburg that sells new and vintage clothing.

Other prints like polka dots and stripes are stylish picks for women for the spring, Martinez said. He said brightly colored and cotton-based apparel will allow for stylish comfort.

“I would say floral, definitely light patterns, bright colors,” he said. “If you are not doing anything with bright colors, you might want to contrast ... with a solid color like a white. I would want to use bright colors at some part of the outfit.”

An alternative to skirts, jeans and short-shorts, Martinez said, are “jeggings” a very popular kind of leggings that are stretchy and look like they are made out of jean material.

“You just slip them on and [they’re] very versatile,” he said. “You can wear them with a lot of different things.”

Rompers, Martinez said, are another new item to keep you ahead of the trend. It is a one-piece item found sleeveless or with straps. The bottom portion of the suit is shorts, and Martinez suggests pairing them with a thin or thick belt, depending on your style.

A basic must for men, which is available at Flipside, is an American Apparel V-neck.

“One of our really popular T-shirts is the V-neck, American Apparel,” Martinez said. “I would definitely suggest, if not a solid color, something with stripes.”

As he held up a black-and-white splotched composition shirt from American Apparel, he said that all-over T-shirt prints are also good to keep an

outfit interesting.

The Western snap is a local favorite that Martinez suggests for semiformal occasions. The term snap derives from the buttons that snap shut, and prints for the shirts include plaid, striped and basic colors. A good type of Western snap for spring, Martinez said, is denim which will be a popular material for this season.

“Dolce & Gabbana did a play on Western wear and it kind of ignited the whole denim Western snaps and the denim jackets,” he said.

For a light piece of outerwear, Martinez suggests a plain, solid-colored jersey knit American Apparel cardigan, which is also available at Flipside.

“I always tell the guys that come in here that if they’re looking for something light, they should opt for a cardigan,” he said. “The good thing about it is that it’s unisex, so say if you buy one, you could always let your girlfriend wear it or like you guys could share clothing.”

As he laughed off the notion, Martinez pulled out another man must-have—a pair of plaid cutoff shorts.

“It’s just a pair of pants that you cut the legs off,” he said. “You want to keep a plaid pattern, nothing too dark, of course, and if you don’t opt for a plaid pattern, something basic like a solid-colored short. ... I definitely would suggest a lighter wash. If you wore something dark during the fall, then you might want to transition to something lighter.”

With alterations made in the store, anything can be fitted to any customer’s body type. Martinez welcomes any students by offering a 10 percent discount. Flipside is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday. It is located at 2405 W. University Dr., past the University of Texas-Pan American campus.

CAREER SERVICES
JOB FAIR.
Where students become professionals.
All majors welcome. Business casual attire recommended. Bring several copies of your resumé. For more information, contact Jaime Villanueva at (956) 882-5627 or e-mail at jaime.villanueva@utb.edu.



KNOWLEDGE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES.

Bring Your Résumé!

Spring 2010 Job Fair (FOR ALL MAJORS)
Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2010
10 a.m.–2 p.m. • El Gran Salon (Student Union)
www.career.utb.edu

Join us for pizza and refreshments!*

*While supplies last.

The University of Texas at Brownsville
and Texas Southmost College



Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with these employers:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS-PPQ
U.S. Census Bureau
H-E-B
Target
Convergys
U.S. Border Patrol
McCoy’s Building Supply
Newtek Business Services
Rio Grande Recruiting Company
FBI San Antonio
Pocket Communications
Entravision South Texas
United Health Group
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services
Integrated Global Knowledge & Understanding Coll.
International Bank of Commerce
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service
University of Phoenix
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Sears Holdings Corporation
Irving Police Department
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance
UTB/TSC Office of Human Resources
DISH Network
UT School of Public Health
Texas Department of Public Safety
VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System
U.S. ARMY

EGADS! An English conference on campus

By David Boon
Staff Writer

Pedagogy, British literature and the writings of Gloria Anzaldúa may seem far removed from each other, but all were among topics brought up at the EGADS! first conference, “Bridges & Borders”, held Feb. 20.

EGADS!, or the English Graduate Advancement and Development Society, is made up of the entire English graduate student body and aims to improve the quality of the graduate program by offering chances to hone the skills students will need later in their careers.

“If you’re a graduate student, you’re going to be doing one of two things,” graduate student Alan Oak said in a telephone interview. “You’re going to either be a professional scholar in a Ph.D. program and beyond in becoming a professor, or you’re going to be moving into some kind of a professional field, such as management or being an editor or something of that sort. Either way, presentations like that are part and parcel of the work you’re going to be doing.”

While the skills learned in a graduate conference can lead to a scholarly career, they also are used by those in the professional fields, said Oak, who was a co-chair for the conference.

“If you’re not going in an academic direction, then it’s still important because while you may not be going to conferences to read papers, you will be doing presentations about projects you’re working on,” he said. “Getting up in front of a group and giving an organized presentation, even if it’s not about literary theory in your later career, is still essential practice to being successful.”

At the conference, held in the University

Boulevard Classroom Building, 28 presentations were given by UTB/TSC undergraduate and graduate students, teachers from local schools and graduate students from other universities. The keynote speaker was Vice President of Academic Affairs Charles Dameron, who spoke on the changing literary portrayal of the Rio Grande Valley.

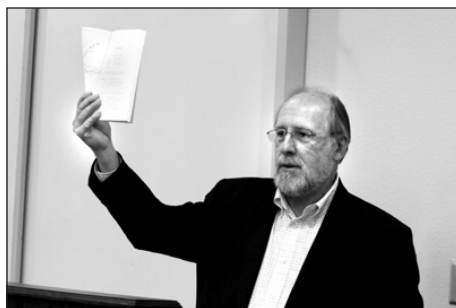
“I’d like to do really two things today,” Dameron said during his presentation. “I’d like to talk about how the border culture has been depicted through literature about our area, and then I’d like to go ahead and read a handful of poems to you to give you a sense of some of the things that I’ve written about as I’ve spent my time here.”

Dameron’s purpose in speaking on the literature of the area was spurred by the idea that while fiction is not literary fact, often some part of it is the truth.

“One way to look at the culture of an area is to look at how the place has been depicted in fictional works over time,” he said. “Although fiction is by definition literally untruth, it often holds a lot of truth within its imaginary frame. That is as observable for the fictional Rio Grande Valley as it is for William Faulkner’s memorable Yoknapatawpha County.”

The poems that Dameron shared were all from his published works. One, titled “During Spring Migration,” was a reflection of a time when he had been bird-watching on campus and admiring the birds’ freedom; at the end of the bird-watching, he was struck by the sight of the U.S. Border Patrol arresting suspects of illegal immigration.

“We found a good place to find birds,” he recited. “On this side of a road, an oxbow pond harbors heron, osprey, grebe. On that side, invisible caws pop out from a meadow of reeds. Around the



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Vice President for Academic Affairs Charles Dameron was the keynote speaker during Feb. 20’s Bridges & Borders conference, held in the University Boulevard Classroom Building.

bend, among the scrub and native trees, we count warblers, cay birds, buntings, orioles, a cuckoo; new life-birds for some, not quite like a fallout on the island, trees full of birds worn down from crossing the gulf but keen and companionable.

“As we bird back toward our cars, we spot a Border Patrol van parked afork the road, a couple of agents at work among three Mexicans sitting in the dirt who crossed the river again this morning.”

The other 27 presentations made up eight of the nine panels and ranged from a specific literary culture to creative writing, with the ninth panel formed by UTB/TSC Assistant Professors Diana V. Dominguez, Teresa Murden and Beccie Randhawa and Associate Professor Javier A. Martinez, who gave attendees advice on how to get published.

Of the graduate students from afar, Jamie Korsmo was one of the farthest from home, coming from the University of Central Oklahoma. She presented in the panel that focused on pedagogy.

“I’m presenting a paper that I wrote on language use in tutoring situations,” Korsmo said. “I’m talking about the different way that we use language to

make students comfortable and bridge the gap between students and tutors.”

Korsmo had previously presented a variation of the same paper in a conference in Los Angeles; of the EGADS! conference, she said that she enjoyed the discussion after each presentation.

Another graduate student far from home was University of Texas-San Antonio student Michael Lee Gardin, who presented her study of Gloria Anzaldúa’s work.

“I had a really great time listening to the panels,” Gardin said. “There were a lot of really great topics. The environment’s really great, too. There was a lot of really great question and answer and socializing in between.”

Overall, the more-than-60 attendees were treated to professional and enlightening presentations.

“I think I haven’t seen one that wasn’t an academic and professional sort of presentation,” said Assistant Professor John Newman. “It’s been a real success and I think they’ve done it. It has work and the graduate students and the faculty advisers have put together a program; they’ve put together on a conference here at UTB/TSC.

“This is a real conference. They’ve got real audiences. They’ve got folks from our university here, but then from [the University of Texas-Pan American], [the University of Texas-] San Antonio, [the University of] Houston and elsewhere, so there are people in the audiences that presenters don’t know, so it’s the real thing. And yet, at least for the students from our university here, it’s a conference which is at home, it’s on home turf and all of that, and so perhaps it’s a little more comfortable for them, but it’s definitely good experience.”

Need Cash for College? Apply for STARS today!

Applicants must:

- Be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- Have a permanent address within the 22 South Texas counties
- Be an undergraduate or graduate student
- Be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking program for 2010/2011 at a U.S. accredited college/university for the full year
- Have completed a high school diploma or its equivalent by June 2010
- Have earned/completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours in a U.S. accredited college/university before application deadline
- Have a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale

Deadline: March 31, 2010

This and other scholarship opportunities are advertised online at: www.utb.edu/scholarships under the Latest Scholarship Opportunities link.



You'll find it in Aldine!



In Aldine ISD, you'll find...

- A great work environment
- A State Recognized Mentorship Program
- One of the highest salaries in Texas
- A diverse student and teacher population
- National recognition for high performance
- A vibrant metropolitan community just minutes from the ocean

To schedule an interview or apply for a position, please visit our web-site at www.aldine.k12.tx.us or call us at 281-985-6306.



INTERVIEWING FOR
School Administrators
All areas

Teachers
Elementary School
All subjects
Middle School
All Subjects
Secondary
Math, Science,
English /
Language Arts,
Spanish, CATE

Special Education
All areas,
Diagnostician

All Grades
Bilingual,
ESL / TSOL, Other

Aldine Independent School District

15010 Aldine Westfield Road • Houston, Texas 77032
Phone: 281-985-6306 • Internet: www.aldine.k12.tx.us

Peña
Continued from Page 6

at once. The second thing, I think, is taking a hard look at the appraisal district and how it has manipulated valuations in Cameron County. The third thing, I think, is we need to take a hard look at the county budget to make sure that we are maximizing each and every dollar that we receive from our taxpayers.”

Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project? “Yes, I am in support of it. The status, according to the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, is they’ve got like three or four proposed areas for it to be constructed over, but I think the one

that is being mostly looked at is at Holly Beach. To answer your question, yes, I’m in favor of it because should we ever have another massive evacuation due to a hurricane, we’re going to need two causeways to get people out. The other reason is that if something should happen to one of them, we won’t be in the same boat that we were the last time. We had an accident on the causeway and we weren’t able to have access to South Padre Island, unless you had a boat.”

Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not? “I am absolutely 1,000 percent against any toll road that is going to divide West Brownsville, period. The excuse that is being used is that it’s going to alleviate traffic. Well, anyone that lives in Brownsville, or works in

Brownsville, or goes to school in Brownsville knows that traffic problems are not north and south. Traffic problems in Brownsville are east and west. You go on Boca Chica [Boulevard], you go on International [Boulevard], you even go on Alton Gloor [Boulevard], [FM] 802--those are east-west arteries and that’s where the traffic problems are.”

How will you address the decline in international bridge revenue? And, would that include a property tax increase? “The last part, no. The first part, the way we’re going to address the decline in bridge revenue is by making Matamoros safe again. We have to coordinate with both city, state and federal governments on our side of the border and our counterparts in Matamoros and start

putting together what I refer to as safe zones, or green zones, in Matamoros that will once again bring tourists back to Matamoros which will, thereby, increase our revenues in terms of the [international] bridge. That to me is the way to resolve that. The other way that we’re going to increase the revenue ... which I do not advocate, is raising the toll, which would be counterproductive in my opinion. So, I think what we really need to be focusing on--not just because it’s going to increase the revenues, but because it’s the right thing to do--people are concerned about their safety not only in Matamoros, but now on this side of the border as well. So, we need to address those problems ... not only on a county level, but the state and federal level as well.”

Hernandez
Continued from Page 5

dollars that are out there for rural areas, that are obviously not being used now. I think one of the big things that ... county commissioners need to learn to do is work together for the good of the county, not just for the good of the precincts. I’m a good listener and [am] able to compromise on issues, and I think that’s very, very important.”

Are you in support of a second causeway for South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project? “The status of the project, I know it’s moving forward pretty rapidly. I do support it because it’s ... a new evacuation route in case of a hurricane or any kind of natural disaster, like when the bridge collapsed. If we had a second causeway, the traffic could’ve been rerouted. The economic development it’ll bring to, that would be Precinct 4, should be tremendous and every time you build a new building or build a new house or create jobs, it lessens the tax burden on the individual citizens, so everything you can do to create any kind of economic opportunity. I think the second causeway is a huge economic

opportunity for the other end of the Island; it will greatly benefit the entire Cameron County. The big problem is ... in having districts. ... I was elected at large [to the city commission], so I covered the whole city. I always tried to help the district commissioners because whatever happened in East Brownsville, affected West Brownsville, whatever happened in South Brownsville had a direct affect on people in North Brownsville. You want it all to be good, or as positive as possible, as you can. You can’t focus [on] any one area or any one precinct in the county and say, ‘We’re going to put all of our eggs in this one basket. This can make it better.’ You need to kind of spread the wealth and work as a team to accomplish goals that would affect everybody from Cameron County, hopefully, in a positive way.”

Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not? “I have met with many neighbors in that area because I walked that area ... and at this point I have a real problem with the parkway, as it’s committed to be right now. I do not know enough about it to say I’m a thousand percent against it, but I do know if it affects the neighborhoods in a negative way, I will not support it. I think the people of West

Brownsville had to put up with that railroad track behind their house for probably over a hundred years and they need to have some say or some input on what’s going to be built behind them once that railroad comes out. If I had to vote today on the project, my answer would be--I would be totally against it. Again it goes back to--every project that comes up, good or bad or positive or negative, has to be studied and talked about and make sure the neighbors in that area have a lot of input because it affects them directly. The old adage of ‘not in my backyard’ is kind of where it stands. People that are making the decisions as to what is going to be there don’t live in that area, and that concerns me very much.”

How will you address the decline in international bridge revenue? And, would that include a property tax increase? “Again, it goes back to economic development and us working with our partners on the Mexican side. The biggest problem I had as ... a city commissioner, one of the problems I saw we faced ... is that we didn’t have a lot of communication with the county commissioners; therefore, we didn’t have a lot of communication with our partners in Matamoros. Economic

development is a way to get bridge revenues back. I do not know how to stop the drug problem, but I know the drug issue has created a lot of the economy. The drug issue has directly affected bridge incomes, and we need to figure out a way to address, to build up the economy more and get more jobs in Brownsville. Here and in the county economy there’s always room for growth. I know people in Brownsville right now that have businesses. In the last year ... the economy’s been so bad that--we all know that, yet their business has grown tremendously because they found innovative ways to change the way and address the way you do business. I think the county has to do the same thing. We can’t put all of our eggs in the bridge revenue basket. If the bridge revenues come down, then we need to go find the resources somewhere else, and that’s how you keep from raising taxes. Again, it goes back to the grants and all the federal money that are out there. I have two slogans I use in my campaign. One is ‘the right choice,’ which I talk about myself and the other one is ‘we can do more with less,’ and that’s how we’ll avoid property tax increases.”

Linan
Continued from Page 5

industries, new service industries to the county. I think we can do this with a good marketing plan and not giving tax deferments to people unless they [have] long-term commitments with contingencies attached to the deferments, if any--that the jobs that they bring are more than just minimum-wage jobs, that they don’t just bring senior management in from out of town and they just hire local people for all the minimum-wage jobs. Those would be some of the conditions for tax consequences for the companies that we attract. I’d like to get the several irrigation districts that are coordinated as to how they decide on how to spend their money and how the water runoff is handled and do a thorough investigation of the levee system, especially as it connects with Hidalgo County.”

Are you in support of a second causeway for

South Padre Island? Why or why not? What is the status of that project? “Right now, the second causeway’s part of the [Cameron County] Regional Mobility Authority and is still in the study stage. Environmental studies are still being done and it’s still a great deal up in the air. There are so many details that are up in the air. As it stands right now, even as little as is known about that project, I would be against it. I’ve been pushing for a number of years since this issue came up that it would be better for the county to add an extra lane or an extra two lanes at the causeway where it is now and then let South Padre Island and Port Isabel input their infrastructure to deal with the traffic when ... there’s traffic backup, which is really only about three times a year, which is Spring Break, Fourth of July and Easter. The rest of the year there’s no traffic problems. If we have two additional lanes there at the same site, just attached to the causeway, we can avoid the second causeway.

I think this is better because the span where the second causeway is planned is so much wider--it’s, I believe, over seven miles. And, I think, that construction and having to pay for--essentially forever, would be a detriment to our tourism and to the tourism aspect of boating and water recreation.”

Do you support the West Parkway project? Why or why not? “The West Parkway, right now, I do not support it as it is planned. I don’t think it’s feasible that the land is only 60 feet wide and I don’t think you can have enough underpasses and off-ramps and on-ramps to not divide the city in a span that’s only 60 feet wide. My preference would be to build another road that has at least as many crossing points as exist now for the past railroad tracks. The way it’s planned, very limited entry points and exit points, I think it would just be a huge wall dividing neighborhoods in half. Dividing, maybe it’s somebody who lives 50 feet away

from somebody [else] and have to drive a mile or two to get to a point to cross and come back a mile or two, so that’s my main objection to it. It would just aggravate traffic problems and the neighborhood’s ability to move back and forth from one side of the parkway to the other.”

How will you address the decline in international bridge revenue? And, would that include a property-tax increase? “It would definitely not include a tax increase. The general fund, as we have it right now, it’s sufficient, you know, we’re still certifying balanced budgets. The bridge and road fund--when it goes into our coffers under the superintendent, it’s big enough to handle the road and bridge issues that we have right now. It caused, in the near past, us to move money from one category to another category, but I don’t see any need right now to try to supplement a road and bridge fund or the general fund from property taxes or property-tax increases.”

Faculty, Students, Staff!

\$300 PER MONTH*

Call 956-546-0381
www.uisroom.com
55 Sam Perl Blvd.
(Off 12th St.)

\$49 PER DAY



University Inn & Suites

TAKE 12TH STREET EXIT GOING WEST FROM EXPRESSWAY.
GO ONE MILE. MOTEL IS ON RIGHT SIDE.

- \$500 per month double occupancy
- Flexible month-to-month agreement
- All utilities paid (cable, water, electricity)
- Near the UTB main campus, 8 min. walk
- Security Surveillance
- Furnished, large rooms, full-size beds
- Micro-fridge, microwave, pool
- Restaurants Nearby
- Internet Available
- Laundry Area

24 HOURS



FOUR CORNERS RESTAURANT

Present this coupon with your UTB/TSC ID and your order of Panchos is **only \$8.50!**

FREE WiFi

Study here!

HOMEMADE 1/2 lb. CHEESEBURGER and Fries

ONLY \$5.95

PANCHOS with Beans, Cheese, Fajitas and Avocado

ONLY \$10.75

COME BY AND SEE US AFTER YOUR NIGHT ON THE TOWN!

Gorditas • Steaks • Menudo • Caldo • Enchiladas • Tripas • Tacos de Brisket • Cabrito en Salsa • And MORE!

4434 E. 14th St. and Boca Chica Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520

542-4777

ORDERS TO GO! OPEN 24 HOURS!

‘Encuentro de Alcaldes’

Se unen en hermandad y amistad Brownsville y Matamoros



FRANCISCO ESPINOSA/FOTOS COLLEGIAN

El Comisario del Cuarto Distrito de Brownsville Edward Camarillo (derecha) hace entrega de la llave de la ciudad a Mr. Amigo 2009, Vicente Fernandez Jr., durante la ceremonia “Encuentro de Alcaldes”. El evento se llevó a cabo el jueves en el Puente Puerta México.

Por Ana Laura Martell

Editora de Español

Se juntaron los municipios vecinos de Brownsville y Matamoros en celebración del tradicional “Encuentro de Alcaldes” para reforzar sus lazos de hermandad, amistad y, sobre todo, mexicanidad.

El evento aconteció la mañana del jueves a mediación del Puente Puerta México, en donde se presentaron altos funcionarios e invitados distinguidos de ambos lados de la frontera.

“Dos pueblos vecinos vestidos de gala con el motivo de celebrar una vez más lo que hemos celebrado por siete décadas: nuestra mexicanidad, nuestra hermandad, nuestras tradiciones y cultura, nuestras raíces, celebrando las Fiestas Mexicanas y El día del Charro,” abrió el maestro de ceremonias y ex-presidente de la asociación Mr. Amigo, Bob Torres.

Comenzó la ceremonia con el saludo a la bandera mexicana, y la presentación de la bandera estadounidense por la escolta de la escuela preparatoria *Gladys Porter High School*. El himno nacional de E.E.U.U. fue interpretado por el mismo Torres.

Para dar seguimiento a la ceremonia, varios pequeños con tradicionales vestimentas mexicanas de ambos municipios—de las escuelas primarias Americo Paredes y San Juan de los Esteros—participaron en el intercambio de las banderas de E.E.U.U y México. Esta tradición se estableció hace 20 años, idea de Rachel, esposa de Torres.

El alcalde de Brownsville Pat Ahumada no logró asistir al evento por cuestiones de salud.

De modo que el Comisario del Cuarto Distrito Edward Camarillo le representó.

Sin embargo el Presidente Municipal de Matamoros, Erick Silva Santos, afirmó ante el público presente que el evento no era un acto protocolario más, sino la oportunidad de resaltar la singular importancia del compromiso histórico-cultural que tienen las generaciones actuales.

“Tenemos el compromiso histórico, esa fortaleza, ese corazón y esa hermandad que nos ha unido por más de 70 años”, afirmó Silva Santos.

Asimismo habló del deber “de construir un futuro promisorio para nuestros hijos, lazos y

puentes de amistad que nos emanen aún más”.

Se realizaron las debidas salutations entre los acaldes y organizadores del evento, y se intercambiaron placas conmemorativas.

Por supuesto, no podía faltar la presencia de Mr. Amigo 2009, Vicente Fernández Jr., acompañado de su esposa Mara Patricia.

Profesionalmente, ha seguido los pasos de su padre, el legendario “Chente” Fernández. Ahora ya puede sumar algo más: 33 años después de que su padre haya sido elegido Mr. Amigo, Vicente Fernández hijo se siente honrado y privilegiado con este nombramiento.

“El tener la oportunidad de estar en el nombramiento que ... tuvo mi padre y que en esta ocasión me toca a mí es un grande orgullo [y] un grande honor,” expresó Fernández. “Ser[á] una de las cosas más importantes que me ha pasado en la vida.

El semblante del cantante mexicano irradiaba orgullo y emoción por ser el primer honorario que resulta ser un charro genuino, elegido por la asociación Mr. Amigo a principios de año.

Fernández declaró tener el honor de que ésta se haya percatado que desde hace muchos años él practica el deporte nacional, es decir, la charrería. “En esta ocasión [soy] el primer Mr. Amigo que es charro para las festividades del charro”.

“[Es maravilloso] el poder representar el lugar en donde me tocó nacer, el país de México, [en] un país como es Estados Unidos [y] representar la unión de Brownsville-Matamoros” agregó el cantante mexicano.

Cada año, la asociación Mr. Amigo honora a ciudadano mexicano de acuerdo con su contribución a la hermandad internacional y al desarrollo de la cooperación y entendimiento mutuo entre E.E.U.U. y México. Se hace un reconocimiento anual como parte de la ceremonia de los días del charro en Brownsville.



Bob Torres, ex-presidente de la asociación Mr. Amigo, fue el maestro de ceremonias del “Encuentro de Alcaldes”.

Silva Santos reconoció y felicitó el extraordinario esfuerzo del patronato Fiestas Mexicanas y al comité Charro Days.

“Este regalo que me dan hoy todos ustedes lo voy a llevar en el corazón”, expresó Fernández y besó la medalla obsequiada que portaba en el cuello.

Posteriormente hincado en una rodilla, besó el suelo.

“Esta es la única manera en que se puede dar las gracias”, expresó.

El charro de México se mostró especialmente conmovido por convivencia entre los municipios vecinos y de poder ser parte de esta tradición.

“Se nos aprieta un poquito el nudo en la garganta [a Mara Patricia y a él] del gusto de ver que sigue viviendo México dentro de las familias que tuvieron que emigrar a otros países”, expresó Fernández, conmovido de saber que “se sigue cultivando y se sigue teniendo un pedacito de México en el corazón de las personas que tienen la herencia de familias mexicanas fuera de [del] país”.

Fernández, en una entrevista con *El Collegian*, puso de manifiesto su posición ante la cuestión del muro entre E.E.U.U y México.

“En especial el día de hoy vi que no hay un muro, que no había fronteras, que se hizo un sólo pueblo tanto del lado norte como del lado sur”, dijo el cantante mexicano. “Me tocó vivirlo ahí en el puente y [fue] una experiencia muy hermosa. Ojalá lo puedan llegar a ver y sentir los políticos que sigan viniendo en el futuro”.

El presidente municipal, por su parte, reconoció que lo que le afecte a la ciudad de Brownsville seguramente repercutirá en Matamoros y viceversa. No obstante, cerró con broche de oro, emitiendo palabras de fe y esperanza: “La fortaleza de ambas ciudades es mucho mayor que nuestros problemas”.



Vicente Fernandez Jr., Mr. Amigo 2009, y su esposa Mara Patricia Castañeda recién llegan a la ceremonia.

Mr. Amigo: el charro de México

Por Ana Laura Martell

Editora de Español

Le montaron en caballo con apenas un año de edad, misma en que empezó a sentir gusto por las actividades ecuestres y el deporte nacional: la charrería.

En una entrevista con *El Collegian* el jueves, Vicente Fernández Jr. mencionó que en un tiempo practicó todas las suertes charras (los piales, las jineteadas, las manganas, entre otras). Inclusive, actuó la suerte más peligrosa de todas, en ocasiones mortal: *el paso de la muerte*. Ésta consiste en pasar del caballo —arrendado y a pelo— a una yegua bruta a todo galope.

El charro de México ha sido campeón y subcampeón estatal en la suerte de *cala de caballo*, actividad que no se logra sin rigurosa

disciplina y sin el entendimiento entre jinete y cabalgadura.

Actualmente, sólo se dedica a ésta última y la *suerte de colas* a modo de práctica y pasatiempo.

“Floreo la soga pero solamente por exhibición [y] por actividad puesto que ... se corre también peligro de tener accidente en los dedos de las manos,” explicó Fernández.

El charro mexicano ha dejado las competencias ya que está al cuidado de su mano derecha.

Fernández no se olvida de la deuda que tiene con su familia y su público.

“Gracias a [éstos] tenemos un equipo charro desde casi 27 años,” dijo el artista mexicano. El Rancho de los Tres Potrillos [equipo] ha

sido campeón nacional en dos ocasiones y se ha mantenido entre los primeros 20 lugares (de más de 900) desde sus inicios.

El rancho está ubicado a las afueras de Guadalajara, Jalisco, México.

Fernández hace hincapié en el agradecimiento que siente con sus padres, las figuras más influyentes de su vida, su actual esposa Mara Patricia y sus cuatro hijos. “Ser un hombre feliz” es la satisfacción más grande del cantante mexicano.

Este es el consejo que tiene nuestro sonriente Mr. Amigo para el alumnado de UTB/TSC: “Ante las subidas y bajadas que da la vida nunca hay que voltear pa’atrás, nunca hay que rendirse y hay que echarle pa’delante. Pa’tas ni pa’agarrar vuelo”.



Mr. Amigo 2009 Vicente Fernandez Jr. agradece al público.

THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

Collegian Editor Julianna Sosa	Photographers Luciana Morales Michael Peña Elizabeth A. Perez Manuel Reyna
Collegian Online Editor David Guerra	
Collegian Webcast Editor Francisco Garza	Cartoonist Michelle Serrano
Spanish Editor Ana Laura Martell	Editorial Assistant Frank Espinosa
Sports Editor Chris Scott	Secretary II Ana Sanchez
Advertising Manager Roxanna Rosas	Student Media Director Azenett Comejo
Advertising Representatives Jimena Evia Marifer Rivera	Address: The Collegian Student Union 1.28 80 Fort Brown Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: (956) 882-5143 Fax: (956) 882-5176 e-mail: collegian@utb.edu Web site: www.utbcollegian.com
Staff Writers David Boon Rene Cardona Jr. Christine Cavazos Cynthia Hernandez Cleiri Quezada Jacqueline Vasquez	© 2010 The Collegian
Copy Editors David Boon Jacqueline Vasquez	The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

Briefs

Research Symposium

The 12th annual UTB/TSC Research Symposium is accepting abstracts from faculty, students and staff interested in presenting their work. Presentations are welcomed in any area involved in scholarly work or research. The deadline to submit an application online is at 11:59 tonight. For more information, call 882-5940 or visit <http://blue.utb.edu/research>.

Extreme juggling

Team Rootberry, winner of five international juggling championships and holder of three world records, will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Jacob Brown Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Office of Student Life, is free and open to the public but seating is limited. For more information, go to: <http://www.rootberry.net>.

Patron of the Arts

Pianists Juan Pablo Andrade, Kenneth Saxon and Jesus Guillermo Morales will perform in concert from 7 to 8:30 tonight in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$5. For more information, call the Patron of the Arts Office at 882-7025.

Violinist Martha Placeres and pianists Richard Urbis and Robert Cruhm will perform in concert from 8 to 9 p.m. Friday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Baritone David Farwig will perform in concert from 8 to 9 p.m. Saturday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Study Skills

The Student Success Center will host workshops titled “Study Smart” from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday and “Test Anxiety” from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Thursday in

Cardenas Hall North 104. For more information, call 882-8208.

Volunteers needed

The 50th annual Rio Grande Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair is looking for volunteers interested in helping the Rio Grande Valley’s next generation of scientists by donating time at the fair from 9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon, noon to 5 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC). To register or for more information, go to: <https://gemini.utb.edu/ode/onlineforms/rgvsef/form.html>.

Withdrawal deadline

The Office of the Registrar reminds students that the deadline to withdraw from classes with a “W” is March 31. For more information, call 882-8832.

--Compiled by Cleiri Quezada

Oscars

Continued from Page 7

and “Precious,” show the life and times of people who overcome adversities and manage to have a successful life. As a side note, I would like to mention that “Precious” does this much better than the other two. I would go as far as saying that if only these three movies were nominated, “Precious” would win. Other movies, like “A Serious Man,” satirize the norm and make fun of a tedious normal life. All of these movies have a wonderful script and amazing cinematography—yet only one can take the statuette home.

You also have movies with historic context, like “Inglorious Basterds,” which, although a work of fiction,

contains a historic backdrop in World War II. Another movie in which this is the main factor is “The Hurt Locker”—in this case the backdrop is the war in Iraq. Both movies have their fair share of violence and action, but the reason they are nominated is because they manage to pull off entertaining and meaningful storytelling.

I wanted to leave the two science-fiction movies for last. The fact that these two movies are nominated here validates the current science-fiction genre. The movies have some similarities in both theme and story, yet the way they were produced and developed could not be more different. “Avatar” is by far the “big-budget movie” of the nominees, costing \$237 million. On the other hand, “District 9” could be

considered a small-budget movie, costing only \$30 million. Both movies have mind-blowing special effects. The movie’s aliens look incredibly realistic and were made completely by computer. And if you have seen “Avatar” in 3-D, you would agree with me that “Avatar” reached filmmaking highs that had not been possible before. One could argue that “District 9” has a more solid script and better performances, but both have strong chances of winning.

You could not have picked a wider group of movies to be nominated for the Best Picture award for 2009. Well, those are my 2 cents about the Academy Awards. I should add that if I were a betting man, I would have no idea where to put my money. Probably “District 9,” but that’s just because that movie is awesome.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
— PAN AMERICAN —

GUIDED
BY A MISSION,
POWERED BY
DREAMS

A system of education that believes anything is possible and challenges the status quo moves a people.

It takes ingenuity, creativity and bravery to make dreams a reality. And realizing dreams is happening every day at The University of Texas-Pan American. As the university that ranks second in the nation in the number of bachelor’s degrees and third in the number of master’s degrees awarded to Hispanics, UTPA is inspiring the next generation of thinkers and dreamers whose invention and courage will transform our region and our world.

In recognition of the success of our students, faculty and alumni, UTPA has been ranked 32nd in the nation and 3rd in Texas on Forbes’ 2009 list of America’s Best Public Colleges. We are proud of this accomplishment, and we are proud to be one of the best universities for Hispanics in the United States.



PREPARE. DISCOVER. TRANSFORM.
www.utpa.edu



THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN
SOCIAL WORK?



Now you can get a Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) at our UTPA campus or through one of our distance education programs. Few occupations can match social work, which offers a broad range of opportunities and settings.

- Public agencies
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Courts
- Private businesses
- Clinics
- Private Practices
- And many other interesting workplaces

IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR A CAREER WITH MEANING, DIVERSITY, AND AN ABUNDANCE OF OPTIONS, CONSIDER SOCIAL WORK.

For more information on the MSSW, e-mail MSSW@utpa.edu, the undergraduate program e-mail BSW@utpa.edu or contact us at 956/381-3575. Program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Teeing up for success

Men’s team wins Sen. Eddie Lucio Tournament as women finish second

By Chris Scott
Sports Editor

For the first time in recent memory, the UTB/TSC golf teams got the chance to host a conference tournament at the South Padre Island Golf Club, Feb. 21-22.

At the Sen. Eddie Lucio Tournament, the men’s squad claimed its second team tournament victory of the season with a combined score of 603 shots beating out its nearest rival, Trinity University, by 10 strokes.

Brock Crosson, who finished runner-up in the individual standings, was glad to finally be playing on a home course.

“It was an awesome event,” Crosson said. “I’ve never had a home tournament down here. It was nice to actually play on a course where you knew its tricks rather than play one practice round and be expected to know the course. I think it showed in our results that even when we struggled we were still comfortable enough to keep our scores down and get winning results.”

After the first day of play, Crosson was in second place in the individual standings after shooting a two-under par round of 70, one shot behind leader Aaron Flores of Our Lady of the Lake University.

“I’ve been in that position before and ended up coming in second in those tournaments, which I guess I did again,” he said. “It was fun though, [Flores] is a good kid and he’s a good player.”

The second day of play saw the weather take a turn for the worse on South Padre, but Crosson was still able to shoot a respectable 2-over-par for the day. This secured second place for Crosson, who finished behind Flores by two shots. Asked if the weather hindered his attempts at challenging Flores, Crosson was quick to dismiss the notion.

“The weather on the final day wasn’t great,” he said. “It was one

of those situations where everyone has to play in it, so it wasn’t really an advantage or a disadvantage. But it came down to the final four holes, where he made putts and I never [did]. I think he ended 1-under-par for those holes whilst I finished them 3-over-- that was the difference.”

Head Golf Coach Bob Lucio was happy at the performance Crosson put in over the weekend and expects him to go from strength to strength as the season progresses.

“He’s continued to play well and I expect him to play well for the rest of the year,” Lucio said. “I’m proud of him because he had to work really, really hard. Brock came to us three years ago from Alberta, and didn’t really know how to play down here. He didn’t have the strength or the mental strength to hang in there for 18 holes but he’s absolutely turned all that around. He’s worked as hard as anyone, he understands that it’s a different game down here and he’s adjusted to that.”

Crosson is now ranked in the top 10 players in the country, a feat he was pleased with but not overly



COURTESY PHOTO

Brock Crosson

concerned about.

“Individual things are just an added bonus,” he said. “It was one of my goals, this being my senior year, to go out and have a great individual season, so it feels good. But more importantly to me is that the team is

doing well and we get ranked as high as possible. I want to go to nationals this year and everybody has to play well for that to happen. If I can keep playing well, I will help the team and maybe take some pressure off the other guys. We can compete with any team in the country and, hopefully, we can get to nationals and prove that.”

The women’s golf team also had a fantastic tournament, finishing second with a combined score of 702 strokes, 11 shots behind eventual winner Trinity University. The stand out from the tournament for the women’s team was junior Andrea Cadriel, who led the field after Feb.



COURTESY PHOTO

Andrea Cadriel

21.

“After the first day I was pleased to be ahead,” Cadriel said. “I knew that I left a few strokes out on the course, however, there was nothing that could be done about those shots but to learn from those mistakes.”

Having had a three-shot lead at the start of the day, Cadriel posted a disappointing score of 90 on Feb. 22, taking her back to second place, five shots behind Angela Aufderhaar of Texas Lutheran University, who won the medalist honors.

Asked about the weather on that final day of play, Cadriel believes the adverse conditions played a factor in why she couldn’t build on

her great round of 79 from the day before, but was keen to learn from the experience.

“The weather conditions did turn sour,” she said. “I did have some unfortunate shots, but it was a tournament day that I will absorb and will definitely not repeat.”

Despite missing out on medalist honors, Lucio was proud of Cadriel and believes she is another who could only get better.

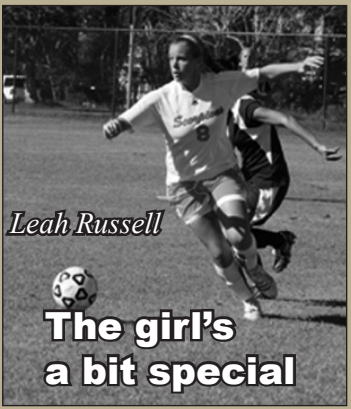
“Andrea works as hard as anybody and I am so proud of her,” he said. “She’s definitely our most talented player, but she hasn’t put two rounds together yet. She needs to put two rounds together, she needs to win an event and get that experience to know for a fact that she can compete with anybody.”

Asked if this victory has inspired more confidence in his side to go on and win more tournaments, Lucio was guarded in his response.

“Yes and no at the same time,” he said. “I feel confident in our ability, confident in our talent, confident in how we conduct things as a golf team, but I am not so confident yet that we’re totally disciplined at making the good choices that we need to make when we play. It’s something that we’re always working on. Overall, my confidence is high, but we still have a lot of work to do.”

Lucio is also looking forward to this week’s tournament, the Schreiner University Invitational, which takes place in Kerrville today and Tuesday.

“We’re coming in really pumped up,” he said. “I see a lot of individuals in both our men’s and women’s teams with that confidence, but I want to hold them in check, I don’t want people to get overconfident and I don’t think we should be overconfident; there are so many good players out there. We just happen to play in what I believe is the top conference in the country and if we get past that, we have a chance to go to nationals and get into the top five teams in the nation.”



Leah Russell

**The girl’s
a bit special**

Born: Oakville, Ontario, Canada on Jan. 19, 1991

Position: Forward

Classification: Freshman

Major: Kinesiology

Heroes: “My heroes are my parents and my family members. As much as everyone may have struggled in life, they all have held their own and are doing well for themselves.”

Highlights: “Winning our league game at Texas Wesleyan [University] and winning conference tournament was the biggest.”

Lowlights: “All the times I have gotten in trouble during season, running so much for being late, and losing first round of nationals.”

Biggest practical joker: “I think Jodie Hunter is one of the girls who fools around a lot. But I’d have to say I’m up there too. If you ask anyone, I’m usually the one always joking around and getting in trouble!”

Most embarrassing moment: “My whole team ganging up on me at the end of practice. The field was soaked and the sidelines were flooded. Our team came into a huddle at the end to say good work and everyone turned on me. The whole team picked me up by my arms and legs and chucked me into the puddle on the side of the field. *And* being *one* minute late for our first home game and having to run up and down for 45 minutes on the spectator side of the field.”

In five years’ time: “Hopefully, be out of university and pursuing my career as a teacher and, hopefully, coaching too.”

--Compiled by Sports Editor Chris Scott

Straight from the dugout

The UTB/TSC Baseball Team fell to its second successive 3-1 series defeat Feb. 19 and 20 to the current NAIA national champions Lubbock Christian University.

I sat down with Coach Bryan Aughney to get his views on the Lubbock series and last weekend’s series against the University of Texas-Pan American and Prairie View A&M University.

Q: The first game of the series represented a great accomplishment for the program, with it being UTB/TSC’s first baseball victory over Lubbock in three years. How much did that victory mean?

A: It was definitely a big win for the program, and a big win for the school. Danny Gidora threw well, kept us in the ball game, and we strung together some hits together in the last inning and Danny went out and went three up, three down. It was a great way to start the road trip up in Lubbock.

Q: How proud were you of your team?

A: I was really happy with the guys. We were down four to nothing with three outs to go and we battled and refused to give in. We just showed how good we can be when we get going on all cylinders.

Q: Does this victory show how much you have been improving over the years?

A: It was definitely a big win for the program, it shows the progress we made, in the first two years we were just trying to keep games going seven innings and now we’re competing with them through seven and coming out on top in one of them. I’m proud of our guys, who showed that hard work and true character does pay off.

Q: After such a great start to the series, the next three games must have been hard to take. Was it that the team just didn’t perform or was Lubbock just too good for you?

A: In the second game we got beat 10-0. We were coming off, obviously, a big high in Game 1 and Lubbock kind of came out and flexed their muscles a little bit. But in Games 3 and 4 we lose 4-0, 7-0 and we made some key mistakes defensively in both of those games. We pitched really well but also we didn’t score any, so offensively we scored in one inning all weekend. Out of 26 innings we scored in one, and it makes it pretty tough to win if you can’t score. It was just about focus and I think we were trying to do too much offensively.

Q: How worrying is it to you that, after being such a strong component of your game this semester, your batters were only able to score in one inning of a four-game series?

A: You got to get guys on to score. That’s something we have definitely been emphasizing in the last couple of weeks with our offense taking a little dip. But we’ll be there. I think the guys are pressing and sometimes trying to do too much, putting too much pressure on ourselves and we just got to get out there and play. You got to have a clear mind to do what we do.

Q: After two consecutive 3-1 series defeats on the road, do you think your team struggles on the road?

A: I think we travel OK. I think some guys have to figure out they got to go to bed, I think that’s part of it. I think we travel fine, we’ve just got to have that mindset that nobody is going to give us anything and we’ve got to go out and earn it every day.

Q: You are back on the road this weekend (Feb. 27-28) with another big series, are you confident of getting back to winning ways?

A: We play at [the University of Texas] Pan Am this weekend, vs. Pan Am and Prairie View A&M [University], two [NCAA] Division 1 teams. Our staff will be ready to go out there and continue to do what they do. Offensively, we’re going to get with

it. We’ve spent all week talking about the mindset and having the right mindset going in, so it should be fun to watch. I just ask our guys to go out and compete every game, go out and compete every pitch and we’ll see what happens at the end of the day.

Q: What do you get out of playing teams outside of your division? Is it just a learning experience?

A: We’re playing D1 teams. They’re a division above us and so it’s a good measuring stick. It’s good to play teams better than us because it forces us to play well in order to compete in games and for that reason I love scheduling good teams. It’s real easy to play down in competition, as well as it is to play up in competition. We just have to approach the games with the right mindset and compete and we’ll see what happens.

Q: Will these games be a tougher test or a similar one to the Lubbock series?

A: I think they’re very similar. The difference this time is that it’s an hour drive rather than a 14-hour one and that definitely helps us. Lubbock’s a good team full of former D1 players so it should be real similar. We just got to worry about what we got to do and take care of the baseball and good things will happen.

Q: After now seeing where the current NAIA national champions are, do you see a big gap in terms of ability between UTB/TSC and Lubbock or is it close?

A: I don’t think we’re that far away. Obviously, I think we’ve got to get better and smarter but you know in any sport anybody can beat anybody else on any given day and it’s just about having the right mindset every day and going out and competing. Our guys are not afraid of working hard and not afraid of getting dirty. It’s just about having the right mindset and going out and believing in ourselves.

--Compiled by Sports Editor Chris Scott

GET ACCESS TO THE MONEY YOU NEED FOR COLLEGE!



FINANCIAL AID WEDNESDAYS

Get help completing
the 2010–2011 FAFSA!

February 3, 10, 17 and 24 • 5–8 p.m.
Tandy Hall 213

March 3, 10, 24 and 31 • 5–8 p.m.
Tandy Hall 213

The UTB/TSC Financial Aid Office will provide
assistance to students completing the 2010–2011
Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Get help filing your 2009 IRS
income tax return for FREE!

February 3, 10, 17 and 24 • noon to 8 p.m.
Tandy Hall 213

The United Way of Southern Cameron County
and the Wal-Mart Foundation will provide all
students free income tax preparation
services using the Beehive Tax Tool Bus.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

February 21 • 2–4 p.m.
Tandy Hall lobby

The UTB/TSC Financial Aid Office will provide
students information on 2010–2011 financial
aid and scholarships, and assistance with
financial aid applications.

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College
For more information, contact the Financial Aid office at (956) 882-8277.



1025 Wildrose Ln.
Brownsville, TX 78520

phone: 542-1941 fax: 542-8104
email: lcbtld@att.net

The Borders
apartments

375 Media Luna Rd.
Brownsville, TX 78521

phone: 546-1605 fax: 546-1607
email: tbbtld@att.net



Attention UTB students! Present this coupon and
receive **\$300 OFF** (with credit approval)*.
*New Move Ins only.

956-541-9200
LAESTANCIAAPARTMENTS.COM
text LAESTANCIA to 47464 for instant info

NOW LEASING

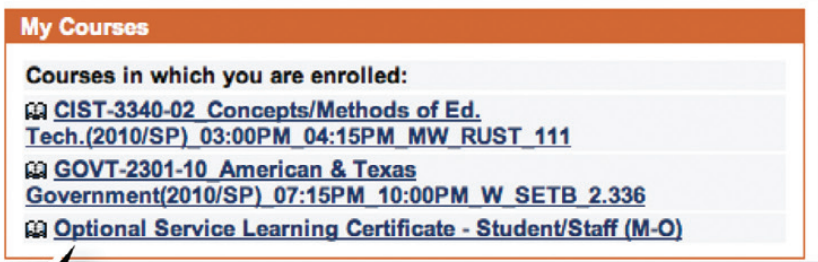


FOR FALL 2010!



MyUTBTSC ONLINE PORTAL

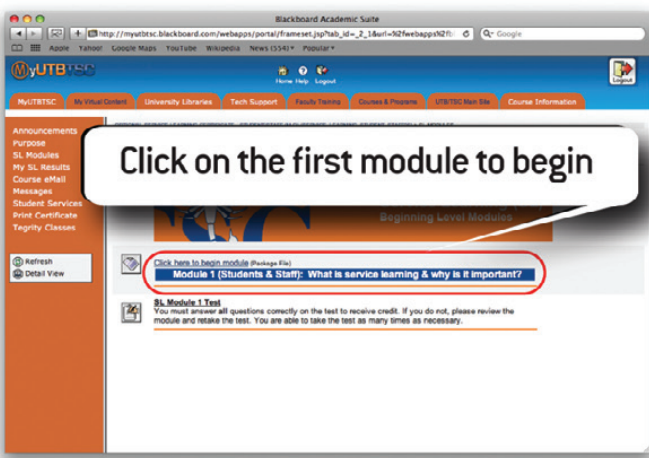
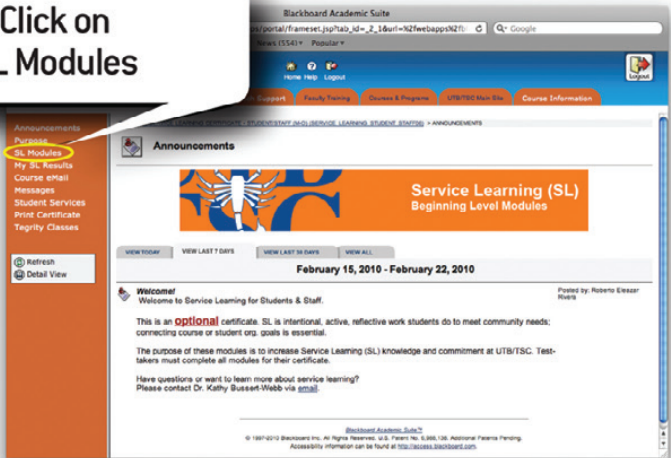
Student access to a free, optional
SERVICE LEARNING CERTIFICATE



Click on
Optional Service Learning Certificate

MyUTBTSC Online Portal
<http://myutbtsc.blackboard.com>

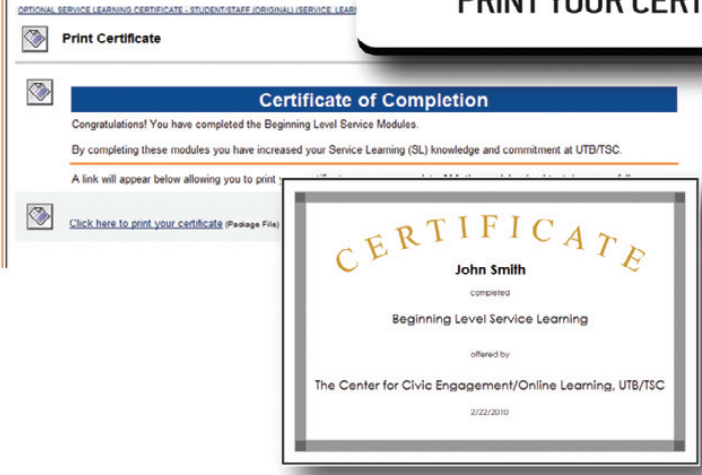
Click on
SL Modules



Complete all the modules to
finish the course



PRINT YOUR CERTIFICATE.



This is a free, optional certificate comprised of Blackboard modules for faculty, students, and staff interested in service learning, which is any intentional, active, reflective work related to course outcomes, and which students do to meet community needs. Students and community members must learn from each other; reciprocity and interactions are key. If an agency is involved, it cannot be a large corporation (except for a hospital).

When a person passes all modules, s/he can click and print the certificate. The certificate will assist a staff or faculty member in promotion, tenure, and exceptional merit; it will assist students with reading and writing development, test-taking skills, and job applications. Researchers have demonstrated SL improved the grades and critical thinking of lower ability students. Also, Kuh et al. (2008) found the level of student engagement, reported on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), was the second leading indicator for student grades and college retention.

Kathy Bussert-Webb, Ph.D., Director of Center for Civic Engagement • kathy.bussertwebb@utb.edu • (956)882-7595

References
Kuh, G.D., Cruce, T.M., Shoup, R., Kinzie, J., & Gonyea, R.M. (2008). Unmasking the effects of student engagement on first-year college grades and persistence. The Journal of Higher Education, 79, 540-563.